Flag sticker and poster inside • Happy Birthday, Army!

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Soldiers

June 2002
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United by Old Glory

Culinary Masters

Clearing the Caves

Soldiers

June 2002 Volume 57, No. 6

SOLDIERS

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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FLAG DAY POSTER

Your copy is inside

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Front cover:
Long a symbol of freedom and national unity, the flag has taken on even greater meaning in the aftermath of Sept. 11. — *Photo courtesy the 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard."*

Feedback

From the Editor

NATIONAL Flag Day was designed to mark the Continental Congress' June 14, 1777, Flag Resolution that designated the Stars and Stripes as our national flag.

In our nation's family of holidays, Flag Day has been sort of like a little brother. It has to share June 14 with the Army's birthday and it's too close to Independence Day to even warrant a day off. As Rodney Dangerfield would put it, Flag Day gets no respect.

Fortunately, the flag has resurfaced in America's collective consciousness since last September's terrorist attacks. It seems the flag is everywhere. Unfortunately, our attention to the flag's proper care and display hasn't matched our zeal for flag proliferation. I don't think this is intentional — many of us simply don't know better.

To help bring a little relief to Old Glory, this issue of Soldiers is dedicated to Flag Day. Inside you'll find a commemorative poster that includes just about everything you'd want to know about how to properly display and care for the flag. In the magazine's centerspread, you'll find a flag-evolution chart that chronicles the flag's changes over the years.

And Happy Birthday, Army!

John C Suttle

America's Monument

I READ your March article "America's Lasting Monument," and enjoyed it very much. Thank you for the opportunity to assist in its writing by sharing my memories of long ago.

If I can be any help to you in the future please let me know.

Carl S. Benckert
via e-mail

THE article's author, SSG Alberto Betancourt, replies:

"It was truly an honor to be able to talk with you and share your memories of the construction of this great American landmark. Americans like yourself, sir, help keep this nation strong and motivate those of us in the military to preserve our freedom at whatever cost."

Cadet Confusion

IN the upper left hand corner of page 8 of the March 2002 issue there is a picture of a new cadet swearing-in ceremony at West Point with the following caption: "Cadets of the class of 1980 are sworn in. The first female cadets had entered West Point four years earlier."

The first female cadets were members of the class of 1980. New cadets are sworn in on their first day at West Point so the picture would have been taken in the summer of 1976, the first day there were female cadets at West Point. I know because I was there for the last two years of an all-male corps and the first two years that women were members of the corps.

Since the number of female cadets was relatively low (close to 100 out of a corps strength of about 4,000) the female cadets were only placed in the first cadet company of each battalion. I was assigned to one of the cadet companies that contained female cadets, including West Point's first female Rhodes scholar. As juniors, my roommate and I were in charge of a squad containing male and female cadets.

John DePiazza
via e-mail

Summer OCS

I ENJOY Soldiers' articles and excellent pictures. However, every once in a while an editing error slips through.

For instance, in the interesting April story regarding the OCS program at historic Fort Meade, S.D., the caption on the table of contents page placed this fort in North Dakota. Move it back to South Dakota, please.

Keep up the great work on an outstanding magazine.

MAJ Rich Crawford, USAR
Fort Des Moines, Iowa

YOUR April article on National Guard OCS was very informative, but only told about two-thirds of the story. You adequately covered phases I and II conducted at Fort Meade, S.D., but only mentioned in passing the final phase conducted at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The phase conducted at Fort Lewis will train and evaluate approximately 800 soldiers from 35 states and territories. The Washington Army National Guard conducts its training in conjunction with ROTC's National Advanced Leadership Camp. The cooperation among the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves is a model for the future "Army of One."

I believe it would be worth your time to report on the activities here at Fort Lewis so that your readers may get a glimpse of the quality training in which our future officer corps is participating.

CPT Scott A. Nelson
via e-mail

Rakkasans?

I ENJOYED your April article on the 187th Infantry. But how about a little history of the nickname "Rakkasans?"

Sonny Jones
Fort Belvoir, Va.

*According to the Fort Campbell, Ky., and 101st Airborne Division Web site (**www.campbell.army.mil**), the nickname originated during the regiment's occupation duty in Japan immediately following the end of World War II. The unit gained the nickname because the Japanese felt that the soldiers' parachutes resembled "falling umbrellas," which is the loose translation of rakkasan.*

Bad Example?

I AND other NCOs I work with noticed something out of place

in the April issue. On page 39, in the large photo of the Quartermaster Center's regimental celebration, there is a disturbing image front and center. A soldier appears to have a beer can in is hand.

The fact that this soldier is drinking is not disturbing. The fact that the magazine editors decided to run this picture is.

The young soldier may be 21, and if it is a beer can in his hand, he must have been authorized to drink at this function. My question is this: Did the editors of Soldiers magazine not consider the image this may portray? Most of the young people joining the military today already bring enough issues and problems with them as they start their careers. We as leaders should not give the new recruits the wrong impression from the beginning.

SFC Troy Anderson
Fort Bragg, N.C.

Certainly, the editors are concerned with messages conveyed by the images we publish; that's why we continually remind contributors to ensure their photos don't show obvious uniform, policy or safety violations. But we also try to balance that concern with our efforts to portray each subject as accurately and honestly as possible. In the photo you questioned, the photographer assures us that the picture was taken at an official and closely supervised function where no alcoholic beverages were authorized. If, on the other hand, this had been an activity where alcohol was permitted, would we have been honest to our readers if we had decided, as you say, to "portray" an image rather than show the Army as it really is?

Beret Blues

ONE solution for the Reservists who complained in the April letter about not yet having berets would be to sign a DD Form 368, get their commander's approval and submit their beret size to their new active-Army unit.

Most active-duty soldiers have ruined their original berets (from shaving or rainstorms) and have to purchase replacements because they have not been issued a second beret. So why are we worried about issuing berets to soldiers who will only don them one weekend a month and maybe two weeks of the summer?

Reservists are not second-class soldiers, but we should first get the berets to soldiers who are required to wear them on a daily basis.

Name withheld by request

No New Medal

IN reading Soldiers over the last few months I have noticed the continuing, back-and-forth discussions about awarding new medals in the wake of Sept. 11 and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Instead of making a new medal, we should use one we already have — the National Defense Service Medal. The purpose of this medal covers both the homeland-defense missions and Enduring Freedom.

The NDSM seems to fit exactly what we are doing for the defense of the American people.

SPC Jonathan Esposito
Korea

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581,** or e-mail: **soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.**

Culinary Masters

Story by SPC Jamie Carson
Photos by Paul Disney

FOR three days, cooking teams rotated through mobile-kitchen trailers at Fort Lee, Va.'s Training Area 42, preparing a 50-portion meal in just 3.5 hours. And, all the while, judges looked over their shoulders to find out how well individuals worked together toward the teams' goal: a large-scale, tasty, safely prepared and nutritious meal served in the field.

But this was just one event in the 27th Annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition hosted by Fort Lee's Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence, and sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation.

It's the premier culinary training event in the military, said CW2 Travis Smith, U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team manager and chief of ACES's Culinary Skills Branch. The 2002 event brought together 200 soldier-chefs from 22 installations worldwide.

They competed in 14 categories, as individuals or in teams, to showcase their skills in preparing nutritious hot foods, a cold buffet, pastry and delectable chocolate masterpieces.

There were static displays, a culinary-knowledge bowl — a sort of food "Jeopardy" — and awards for Installation of the Year, Chef of the Year and Junior Chef of the Year.

Culinary exhibits at the Fort Lee Post Field House were open to the public and

SPC Jamie Carson works at the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office.

SPC David Marcelli, of Team USAREUR, prepares carrots for the entree. His partner, SGT Ned Cary, prepared the team's dessert.

SPC Daniel Palumbo of the 25th Inf. Div. drips a gooey confection over an upturned cup. The mixture will harden, and the hard candy will be used to decorate a desert.

included ice-carving and food-preparation demonstrations. During the latter, contestants took center stage, completing their creations in a specific amount of time as judges watched their every move.

The competition, which is judged according to strict ACF standards, was first held in 1976 as a way to motivate soldiers pursuing food-service careers, said Smith. At the same time, it promotes camaraderie and opens doors to educational opportunities among culinary professionals.

Soldiers who compete can also opt to try out for the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team, which took the "World Champion in Military Catering" title at the Culinary Olympics held in Erfurt, Germany, in October 2001.

Judges rate entries based not only on how they taste, but also on how they're presented. Safe preparation of food and sanitation of food preparation areas are also rated, said SSG Rene Marquis, an ACES Advanced Culinary Skills instructor and competition judge.

"The competition doesn't end after the meal is served," he said. "The judges examine everything, including what the chefs don't use."

SFC Kara McHugh, a member of the Korea Culinary Arts Team, said: "Competing in the culinary arts competition gives soldiers a chance to acquire skills and prepare foods they would never have the chance to make in the average dining facility." □

SFC Benita McKensie of the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va., surveys the edible creations on display.

And the winners are...

Installation of the Year — Fort Bragg, N.C.
Field Cooking — Fort Lewis, Wash.
National Military Culinary Champion — SFC David Russ, Fort Bragg
Chef of the Year — SFC Willie Meeks, Fort Bragg
Junior Chef of the Year — PFC Scott Graves, U.S. Army, Europe
Nutritional Hot Food Challenge — SGT Ned Cary and SPC David Marcelli, USAREUR
Individuals selected as members of the 2002 U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team —
SFC Benedict Tesoro, Fort Lewis
SSG Paul Edwards, USAREUR
SPC Adam Lang, Fort Bragg
PFC Scott Graves, USAREUR

WAR ON TERRORISM UPDATE

AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

Operation Noble Eagle

At press time, more than 28,670 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers had been called up to provide security at airports and other facilities around the country.

Some 1,500 National Guard troops, primarily from the Army Guard, began assisting U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs Service officials in eight states along the Canadian border and in the four states along the Mexican border.

Congress commended Pentagon reconstruction crews for their dedicated work in repairing the Department of Defense's headquarters following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. The "Phoenix Project" is six weeks ahead of schedule because of near-round-the-clock work shifts.

Operation Enduring Freedom

During an April 6 ceremony in Afghanistan, Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki pinned medals on several soldiers in recognition of their actions during Operation Anaconda.

SMA Jack Tilley also visited soldiers in Afghanistan and at support areas in the theater of operations.

U.S. and other coalition troops are continuing their search for al-Qaeda forces in eastern Afghanistan as part of Operation Mountain Lion.

On April 15, four American soldiers were killed and another was injured in Afghanistan when a 107mm rocket exploded while the troops were destroying captured weapons near Kandahar.

On March 19, a soldier was injured when a small number of U.S. troops at the airfield at Khost, Afghanistan, engaged enemy fighters armed with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.

About 400 soldiers were greeted with tears of joy, hugs, kisses and cheers as they returned from Afghanistan to their homes at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

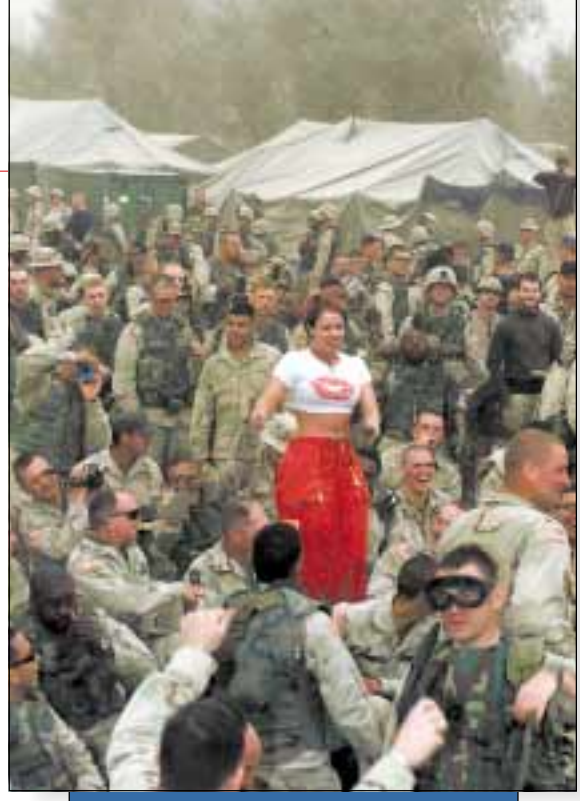
Soldiers returning from operations in remote areas of Afghanistan enjoyed a hot meal and a USO concert by the rock alternative band Mink. — *Compiled from Army News Service, Armed Forces Press Service and DOD Public Affairs releases.*

SPC George Allen

Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki speaks to 101st Airborne Division soldiers at Afghanistan's Kandahar Airfield before an awards ceremony for many of the soldiers who participated in Operation Anaconda.

PFC Christopher Stanis

SMA Jack L. Tilley talks to 101st Abn. Div. soldiers during his visit to Kandahar Airfield. Tilley conducted a question-and-answer session with the soldiers.



SPC Elizabeth Casebeer

Mink's lead singer, Jonda Madison, performs for U.S. and coalition personnel at Kandahar Airfield during the band's USO tour.

Steve Frith

SPC Jeremy Rabalais from the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, receives the Purple Heart from GEN Shinseki during a recent ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y.

SGT Ronald Mitchell

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White poses for a photo with 92nd Engineer Company soldiers at Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base. White visited Operation Enduring Freedom troops deployed in Afganistan.

Briefings

Anniston Army Depot, Ala.

Army Accepts First U.S.-Built Stryker

ARMY Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki officially accepted the first U.S.-built Stryker Interim Armored Vehicle during a rollout ceremony here April 12. The Army plans to buy more than 2,000 Strykers, which will become the workhorses of six Interim Brigade Combat Teams over the next decade.

Army officials said the Stryker brings to the battlefield more firepower and better protection than equipment currently in light divisions, yet it is more deployable than the M-2 Bradleys or the M-1 Abrams tanks in heavy divisions.

"Desert Storm taught us we could get light forces into theater very quickly, but it took too long to get the heavy forces in to sustain the fight," Shinseki told ceremony attendees. "When we declared a need for the IAV, we had the events of Desert Storm in mind."

Joe Burlas

GEN Eric K. Shinseki signs the official acceptance form for the first U.S.-built example of the Stryker IAV.

The wheeled combat vehicle initially exceeded the 38,000-pound contract weight limit that would allow it to be airlifted by a C-130 aircraft. An aggressive weight-management team resolved the issue weeks before the rollout ceremony by decreasing the Stryker's transport load list and changing its armor formula, an Army official said.

The first two IBCTs to receive the Stryker will be the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 1st Brigade, 25th Inf. Div., both at Fort Lewis, Wash. The 2nd Inf. Div. IBCT is scheduled to have its full contingent of Strykers by May 2003.

Other units slated to transform into IBCTs and receive Strykers are the 172nd Inf. Bde. at Forts Richardson and Wainwright, Alaska; the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Polk, La.; the 2nd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 56th Bde., 28th Inf. Div.

The Stryker will have 10 variants: the Infantry-Carrier Vehicle; Mobile Gun System; Anti-Tank Missile Guided Vehicle; Reconnaissance Vehicle; Fire-Support Vehicle; Engineer Squad Vehicle; Mortar-Carrier Vehicle; Commander's Vehicle; Medical-Evacuation Vehicle; and the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle.

The vehicle was named for two Medal of Honor recipients — PFC Stuart S. Stryker, who served with the 513th Inf. Regt. in Germany during World War II; and SPC Robert F. Stryker, who served with the 1st Inf. Div. in the Vietnam War. — *Joe Burlas, Army News Service*

Army Celebrates 227th Birthday

THE ARMY officially celebrates its 227th birthday June 14, but many events, before and after that date, are occurring Armywide. For a list of events in your area, or for more information about the Army's past, present and future, visit ***www.army.mil/birthday227****.*

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

New Cancer-Screening Technologies

FEMALE beneficiaries of Army health care will soon receive medical evaluations using the newest, most effective technologies available in the battle against cervical cancer.

The Army has already implemented a worldwide conversion to liquid-based cytology for cervical cancer screening, and is adding HPV, human papillomavirus DNA testing, to help clarify inconclusive results. The two tests, known by the commercial names "ThinPrep" and "Hybrid Capture 2," can be done in one simple procedure.

"The ThinPrep Pap Test and HPV testing are being widely adopted in civilian medical institutions and, after a careful review of existing technologies, we believe that these tests offer significant benefits," said the Army's surgeon general, LTG James B. Peake.

In the past, some two million Pap smears a year have produced unclear results, requiring additional testing or invasive procedures. The new procedures will mean fewer repeat patient appointments and lower overall costs.

"The Army — with its inherent worldwide missions, frequent deployments, and young and highly mobile population — requires a screening tool that is reliable, timely and accurate," Peake said. "The rewards of more accurate Pap smear analysis will be more opportunities to intervene in the early stages of pre-cancer or cancer, less patient anxiety, more con-

venience for patients and cost savings." — *U.S. Army Medical Command Public Affairs Office*

Columbus, Ohio

The Spirit of America Show Goes on the Road

THE Army's colorful re-enactment of its role in American history returns this September when **Spirit of America** rolls into Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 20. After its two-day performance there, the two-hour military pageant comes to the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., Sept. 26 through 29.

If you're within a convenient distance of either of these locations, you won't want to miss this exciting presentation. Featured units include the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," and the 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard," which includes The Caisson Platoon, The Fife and Drum Corps, The U.S. Army Drill Team and The Commander in Chief's Guard. Admission is free, but you must have tickets for the performance you plan to attend. For more information, call toll-free (866) 239-9425. — *Military District of Washington PAO*

The Spirit of America show opens in Ohio on Sept. 20, then moves to Washington, D.C.

Fort Lee, Va.

Mortuary Affairs Specialists Plan Reunion

THE U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Center at Fort Lee, Va., will host a reunion of mortuary-affairs, memorial-activities and graves-registration specialists, Sept. 19 and 20.

Activities will honor past and present specialists who are part of this honorable and often difficult profession. Officials will also host a forum for the exchange of information and ideas that benefit today's Army.

Those interested in attending should cal Doug Howard at (804) 734-3831, or e-mail him at **howardd@lee.army. mil**.

Due to post security requirements, visitors should plan accordingly to avoid delays when entering the installation. — *Fort Lee PAO*

SAFETY NEWS

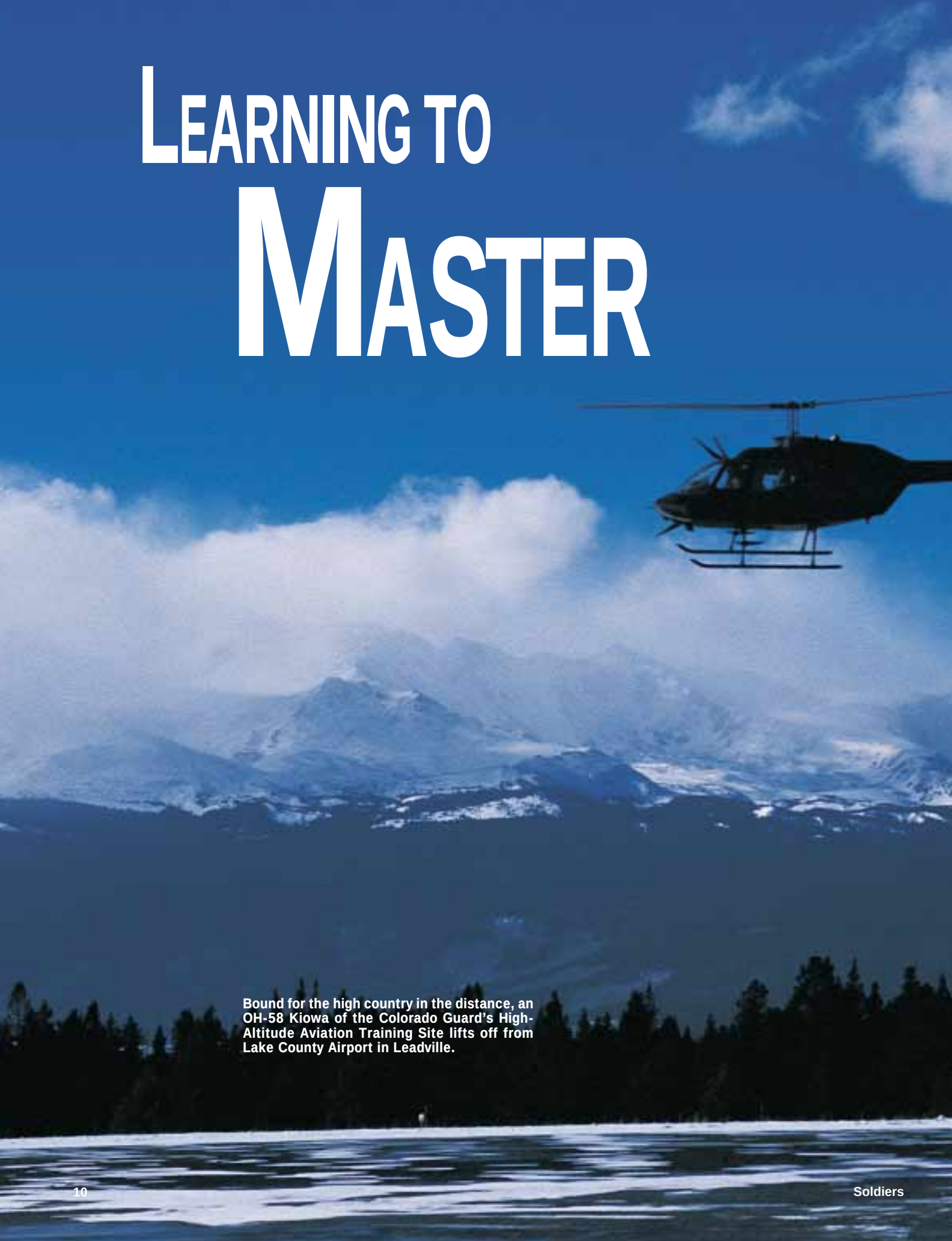
Summer Safety Focuses on POV Accident Prevention

THE U.S. Army Safety Center's "Drive to Arrive" campaign tops off this year's summer safety program. Each year, accidents involving privately owned vehicles account for 60 to 65 percent of the Army's fatalities. The Army lost 99 soldiers in POV accidents last fiscal year. The rate tends to rise during major holiday weekends and the summer months, when soldiers are traveling, said Safety Center spokeswoman Jane Wise.

Public-service videos are now being shown in 162 Army and Air Force Exchange Service theaters worldwide to promote safe driving. The videos, which feature such country music artists as Travis Tritt and Colin Raye, can also be viewed at the center's Web site at **http://safety.army.mil**.

The site also offers several other tools to help commanders and soldiers stay safe during the hot summer weather. A link to the April 2002 issue of Countermeasure, entitled "Beat the Heat," outlines information ranging from the prevention of heat injuries to safe boating. A hot-weather injury chart listing causes, symptoms and first-aid measures for such ailments as heat stroke is included. For more information, see your installation safety officer or go to the Safety Center Web site and type "summer safety" into the search box. — *USASC PAO*

LEARNING TO MASTER



Bound for the high country in the distance, an OH-58 Kiowa of the Colorado Guard's High-Altitude Aviation Training Site lifts off from Lake County Airport in Leadville.

Combat operations in Afghanistan have underscored the value of the graduate-level training offered by the Colorado Army National Guard's High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site.

THE MOUNTAINS

Story and Photos by Steve Harding

Master Sgt. Keith Reed, USAF

Army aviators — such as the pilots of these CH-47s being loaded at Afghanistan's Kandahar Airport — routinely face mountains and "hot and high" conditions.

THE small patch of stoney ground isn't what you'd call an ideal helicopter landing zone.

Wedged between two rocky outcroppings atop a Colorado mountain, the space is mantled in crusted snow and scoured by icy winds. Visibility shifts from excellent to dismal and back again within seconds as dazzling sunlight alternates with heavy clouds. It's a starkly beautiful and potentially deadly spot, and it's one of CW4 John E. Ogburn's favorite places to bring student pilots.

Ogburn is an instructor pilot and standardization officer for the Colorado Army National Guard's High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site, and a landing and takeoff from a small clearing near the summit of a high peak is a staple of HAATS' unique and highly regarded mountain-flying course.

Open to active and reserve-component Army aviators, pilots from other U.S. services and members of certain foreign militaries, the five-day course offers what HAATS' commander, LTC Joel Best, described as "graduate-level aviation training."

A Unique Curriculum

Located in a small hangar-and-classroom complex at the civil airport in Eagle, Colo., HAATS was established in 1985 to teach Colorado Guard aviators how to better operate in their state's rugged terrain and often extreme weather conditions. As the only U.S. military school teaching the specialized techniques of mountain helicopter flying, HAATS quickly developed a broad following throughout the nation's military.

"The widespread interest in what we teach is only logical," Best said, "when you realize that from the very beginning of the U.S. military's use of helicopters, we have flown them in mountains. The whole concept of 'air mobility' evolved because we needed a way to move people and equipment through areas that were too rugged for ground vehicles, or that had no roads."

"We ask our aviators to fly helicopters loaded to their maximum gross weights, at night and in bad weather, wearing night-vision goggles, in rugged terrain."

"From Vietnam to Afghanistan, 'high, hot and heavy' operations have been the rule, not the exception," added CW5 Mike Moore, one of HAATS' instructors. "We ask our aviators to fly helicopters loaded to their maximum gross weights, at night

SPC David Marck Jr.

Even the most capable of the Army's helicopters, like these CH-47s leaving Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield, face increasing power limitations as they climb into the mountains.

and in bad weather, wearing night-vision goggles, in rugged terrain."

Moreover, Best said, Army helicopter pilots are also expected to fly in high-density-altitude conditions.

"Simply put, at higher elevations and in warmer temperatures an aircraft's engine puts out less power, reducing the aircraft's maneuverability and limiting the load it can carry," he said.

Both are of critical importance to Army aviators, who are routinely tasked to transport people and cargo under conditions that would keep commercial aircraft firmly on the ground.

Being highly motivated and what might best be described as "extremely self-confident," Army aviators will do their absolute best to accomplish any assigned mission, Best said. But no amount of enthusiasm will overcome the tremendous challenges presented by high-altitude or high-density-altitude operations.

"You just cannot take young aviators who've flown at or near sea level for their entire careers and expect them to be able to safely and effectively insert a special operations team into a 16,000-foot-high landing zone in Afghanistan, at night, in bad weather," Best said. "That's a recipe for disaster, because they'll be completely overwhelmed."

HAATS' instructors see it as their responsibility to pass on the knowledge that will allow pilots to overcome the mountains' many challenges.

And the key to that knowledge, Best said, is a process called "power management."

It's All About Power

Though there are many skills that are especially important in mountain flying — a keen eye for weather, for example, and the ability to "read" the winds moving around a particular terrain feature — the HAATS pilots feel that the most vital is understanding an aircraft's power limits.

"A helicopter has a certain performance capability at sea level," Moore said. "The engine will put out a certain amount of power and the helicopter will be able to lift itself and a certain load. At higher elevations, or in extremely hot environments, the aircraft's performance is considerably lessened."

One of the most common causes of military helicopter accidents, Best added, is a pilot who thinks he has enough power available to perform a certain maneuver or get out of a particular situation, and then finds too late that he doesn't.

"Pilots get used to flying their aircraft in a particular way at sea level, because there they can usually power their way out of most situations," Best said. "But then they deploy to a high-altitude or high-density-altitude area and they quickly find they don't have that luxury."

Helicopter instructor pilots have always found ways to force their students to think about, and deal with, power limitations, Moore said. Sometimes it was as simple as the instructor limiting how far the student pilot could turn the aircraft's twist-grip throttle, and sometimes it was as potentially dangerous as loading the student's helicopter with ballast so that the aircraft actually was operating at its maximum gross weight.

"The problem with that approach, of course, was that the pilot really was out of power, and if he made a mistake, he crashed," Moore said. "That's not a real good training plan when you're dealing with new, inexperienced pilots."

The Colorado Guard's more

During HAATS' ground school, aviators review the principles they'll later put into practice during a week of training flights.

A hovering UH-1 is almost obscured by the snow kicked up by its rotors — another potential hazard of mountain flying that aviators must learn to overcome.

systematic — and considerably safer — approach to teaching power-limited flying techniques grew out of a 1985 request from the North Dakota Army Guard. That state was preparing to deploy Guard helicopters to Honduras to support ongoing humanitarian-relief operations, and asked for Colorado's help in preparing pilots for the challenges of flying in the mountainous Central American nation. At that time Honduras was the site of more Class A accidents — the kind that result in the complete destruction of the aircraft and/or the death of crew or passengers — than anywhere else Army helicopters operated, so it was not an idle request.

Moore and the other aviators at what was then called the Colorado High-Altitude Training Center taught the North Dakotans some useful mountain-flying techniques, and the small facility in Eagle soon became a required stop for most Army Guard and many active-duty pilots bound for operations anywhere in U.S. Southern Command's vast area of operations.

"In the process of teaching mountain flying to all these folks over the next few years, we realized that many of them lacked a fundamental grasp of power usage in helicopters," Moore said. "So over time we developed this systematic approach to teaching power management, and we think it has greatly improved the overall skills of the pilots who've been exposed to it."

More Than Numbers

Army pilots use what's known as "tabular data" to predict their aircraft's performance under known conditions. These data, which are listed in table form at the back of the operator's manual for each type of aircraft, allow the pilot to develop a formula that tells him how much power is actually available and provides a framework for using that power most effectively under varying circumstances.

"But power management isn't just the 'tab data' in the back of the manual," Moore said. "It's a method of making you aware of all the other things that affect the aircraft. The main thrust is allowing the pilot to understand as much as possible about himself, the aircraft and the environment."

And once pilots have a quantifiable and foolproof method with which to predict their aircraft's performance in any situation, Best said, they are better able to deal with the other challenges of high-altitude flight.

The HAATS program focuses primarily on the UH-1, OH-58, UH-60 and CH-47. The facility has its own OH-58s and UH-1s; operators of the other types bring their aircraft with them.

The Course

The entire HAATS operation is undertaken by just 18 people — eight pilots, nine mechanics and a flight-operations NCO. Yet in spite of its small size, the organization trained 269 people in 2001 — the majority of them active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. However, there were also 15 pilots from other countries and aviators from the other U.S. military services.

The HAATS program focuses primarily on the UH-1, OH-58, UH-60 and CH-47. The facility has its own OH-58s and UH-1s; pilots of the other types bring their aircraft with them. The five-day course consists of one ground-school day and four days of flying. On the flight days the students put into practice the knowledge and techniques they learned in the classroom.

"This is a 'crawl-walk-run' process," Best said. "Given the range of terrain in this area, we can select the appropriate start point for each student, based on individual ability and skill level. If they have an excellent grasp of the academic concepts and some real-world experience from a place like Alaska or Korea, we can jump right

Want more info?

For more on HAATS, including course entry requirements and the school's ATRRS School Code number, visit the Web site at **www.coloradoguard.com/arng/haats.htm.**

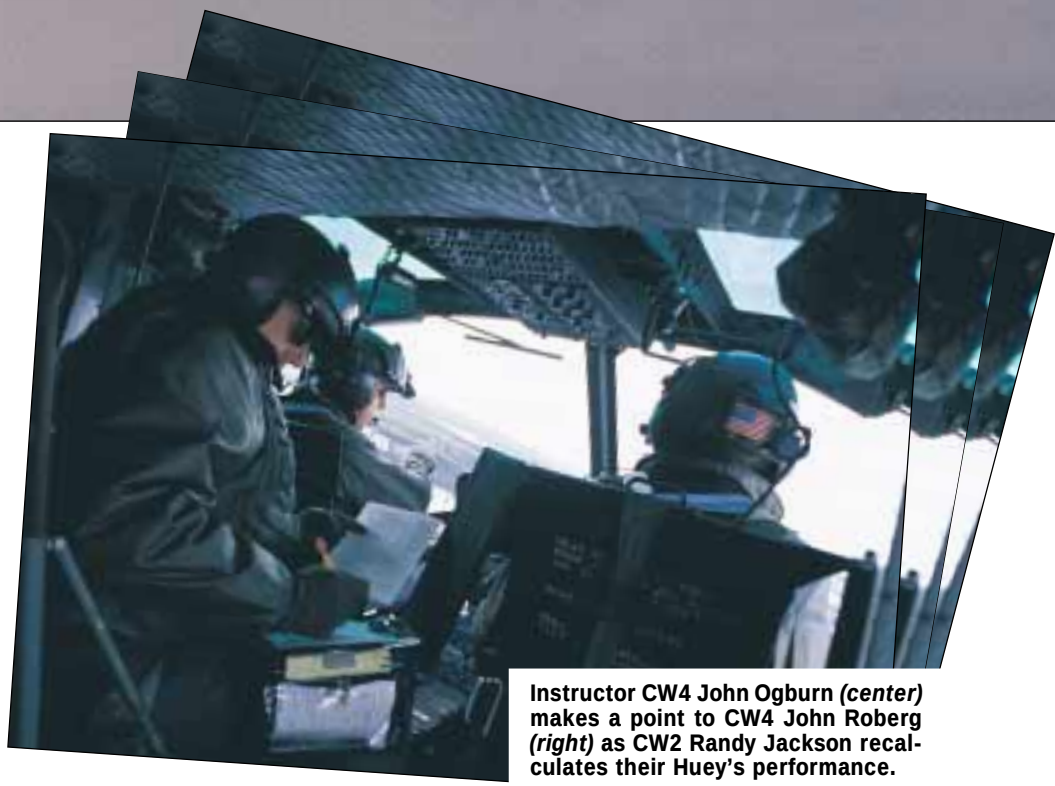
into the really dynamic training."

And that training — which can include such things as landings and takeoffs from narrow rock pinnacles and from mountain-top sites — is often a real eye-opener for the participants, many of whom are senior aviators with thousands of hours of flight time gained all over the world.

"I flew search-and-rescue missions in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest for four years," said course participant CW2 Randy Jackson, "and I didn't learn things in all that time that I learned on the first day here at HAATS."

Jackson and CW4 John Roberg, both of the California Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, found the course to be both interesting and of tremendous practical value.

"As California Guard aviators we fly everywhere from sea level to the tops of 11,000-foot mountains," Roberg said. "One of the things this course reminded us of was that we can run into the same power limitations at 3,000 feet on a really hot day in the Mojave Desert as someone else might encounter at 15,000 feet in the high Rocky Mountains. This has been really useful, and we'll definitely take these techniques back to the other pilots in our unit."



Instructor CW4 John Ogburn *(center)* makes a point to CW4 John Roberg *(right)* as CW2 Randy Jackson recalculates their Huey's performance.

Passing the Knowledge On

Though the HAATS members know their one-week course won't produce any master mountain aviators, they're proud of what they do and thankful for the chance to pass on what they know.

"When you've amassed the wealth of mountain-flying and power-management knowledge and talent that we have here," Best said, "it's something you want to share. Especially since the knowledge and skills that we pass on can prevent the loss of lives and millions of dollars worth of aircraft."

"The most rewarding part of this job is when you see that little light bulb go off above a student's head," Moore added. "It's particularly rewarding when the instructor pilots from the units 'get it,' because they'll take the knowledge back and teach it in their units. And the more pilots who understand and use our methods, the fewer people and aircraft we'll lose. It's as simple as that." □

Engineer soldiers attending Fort Leonard Wood's advanced noncommissioned officers' academy creep close to the entrance of a cave where suspected "enemy" troops are hiding during a cave-clearing training exercise. The academy developed the training from lessons learned in Afghanistan.

CLEARING THE CAVES

Story by SPC Chris Charlton
Photos by Paul Disney

A YOUNG soldier silently creeps along the moist walls of a cave far from his home. It's so dark he can't see his hand just an inch from his face. But, he's not alone.

The rest of his squad is close behind. They remain silent as they search the unfamiliar depths of the twisting cavern.

After hours of relying on their own instincts and equipment, they find what they've been looking for. A distinct glow in the distance has led them to the mouth of one of the cave's small chambers. As they enter, a lighted torch inside casts shadows on exposed documents and other items that will help them in their endeavor — to defeat terrorism.

SPC Chris Charlton works at the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office.

Some soldiers who deployed to Afghanistan to help rout Taliban and al-Qaeda forces from their hiding places searched similar caves, in the country's Tora Bora and Milawa Cave networks.

Those missions spurred officials at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to incorporate cave-clearing training in the Engineer Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course.

Engineer ANCOC instructors developed the instruction because soldiers training at the Engineer School might deploy to Afghanistan, and cave-clearing missions might be among the duties soldiers will perform there for some time, said course chief 1SG Ronald Cook.

The Army's engineers, who usually deploy downrange to locate and eliminate booby traps and mines, need to know how to perform those tasks inside caves, too, Cook said.

During a recent three-day exercise, some of the ANCOC students in Class 01-02 traveled to Miller Cave, located at Fort Leonard Wood, to complete the cave-clearing training.

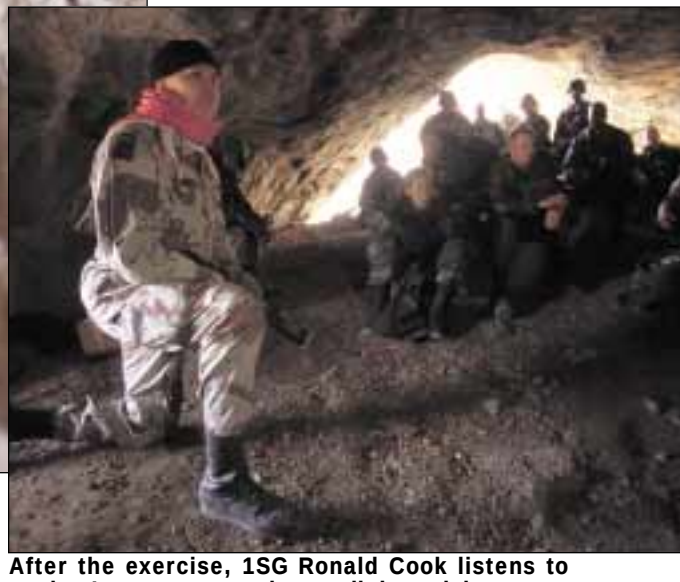
As the soldiers approached the cave, they first secured the site by searching for simulated booby traps and land mines, and marked every device to preclude follow-on soldiers from passing by and setting them off.

As they neared the cave's entrance, the students advanced cautiously via move-and-cover maneuvers. One soldier inched forward as his peers provided cover.

Once inside the cave, the soldiers searched for more traps and mines, as well as "enemy" soldiers and their weapons. They "killed" one of two

Cave-clearing missions in Afghanistan spurred officials at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to incorporate cave-clearing training in the Engineer Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course.

An engineer ANCOC student peers around a boulder inside the cave, looking for booby traps planted by the "enemy" during the training exercise.



After the exercise, 1SG Ronald Cook listens to student's comments on how well the training went.

opposing-force soldiers and "captured" the other during the training.

Cook said the cave-clearing training also hones leaders' combat skills. "Students learn how to be platoon sergeants in a combat environment," he said.

The training is beneficial because, "some of our guys may be going to units that will deploy to Afghanistan or the surrounding area when they leave here," said recent student SFC Curtis Kibler, from Battery E, 19th Field Artillery Battalion, from Fort Sill, Okla.

Today, the United States faces conflicts that are different from those of the Cold War-era, he said. "The terrain we face today is much different, too," as are the techniques soldiers must use to fight.

"This is a first for me," said SFC Darrell Frasier of Fort Sill's Directorate of Public Works. "I've done maneuver training before, but never in caves." The training was very successful, he said.

"Anytime you can go in with a platoon-sized element, capture the intended targets — in this case, people and equipment — and leave with no casualties, you've completed a very successful training rotation," Frasier said. □

REACHING OUT to the BEREAVED

Story by Heike Hasenauer

SIX months to the day after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, family members and friends of 21-year-old CPL Matthew A. Commons bid their final farewells to him at his Arlington National Cemetery gravesite.

The site is near the section where many victims of the Pentagon attack are buried, said Kerry Sullivan, a Military District of Washington spokeswoman.

Beyond the field of marble gravestones, cranes could be seen continuing their construction work at the almost-repaired Pentagon, and occasionally a jet destined for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport flew over the solemn crowd of mourners.

Among them were two soldiers who didn't know Commons, but will, undoubtedly, not soon be forgotten by his loved ones. One delivered the heart-wrenching news of his death. The other helped the family understand paperwork requirements and plan the funeral and burial services.

The two, CPT George Antone and 1LT Craig George, are members of the Military District of Washington's Casualty Area Command at Fort Myer, Va. It's one of 37 CACs Armywide, said LTC Rita Salley, chief of U.S. Total Army Personnel Command's Casualty Operations Division.

Antone, the command's chief of casualty and mortuary affairs, has alternately served as casualty-notification officer and casualty-assistance officer for about two years. He notified Commons' family of his death. Commons was the youngest of four soldiers who died March 4 during intense fighting in Afghanistan.

An M203 gunner, Commons had recently celebrated his 21st birthday. And he'd been in the Army only 18 months when the Chinook helicopter he was in landed in the middle of a firefight against al Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

When the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command received word of the deaths, its Casualty Operations Division contacted CACs closest to the families to request that their CNOs deliver the tragic news, Salley said.

Today the news is no less painful to hear than it was during the early years of the Vietnam War, when the Army had no certified death-notification or assistance program, and taxi drivers were commissioned to notify families, Salley said.

But the officers and senior noncommissioned officers designated to go to the homes of casualties today are equipped to offer them much more than the quick, brutal bottom line.

It's the CNOs' and CAOs' own military experiences that allow them to be strong, but compassionate, said Antone.

"Before I walked up to the home of Matt's father, I thought carefully about what I was going to say. It doesn't get any easier over time," said Antone, who's delivered the news of death about 20 times. "I approach it from the standpoint of how I'd want someone else to break the news to my wife if I got killed.

"I usually say, 'On behalf of the secretary of the Army, I regret to inform you …You have my deepest condolences …," Antone said. After they've had a moment to grasp the news, he answers as many of their questions as he can, without speculating. Usually, the family's first concerns are about the circumstances of

BG Richard Mills, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, presented CPL Matthew A. Commons' parents with the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor and Meritorious Service Medal that were awarded to their son posthumously. SSG Alberto Betancourt

Paul Disney

As this staged scene depicts, the casualty-notification officer is the first person to break the news of a service member's death to a loved one.

"You never know how someone will react. Some people will start screaming when they see you coming. They just know something is seriously wrong when a uniformed soldier comes to their door."

the soldier's death and where the remains are located.

"You never know how someone will react," said George, who became casualty assistance officer to Commons' family 24 hours after they got the news. He's also notified families of a soldier's death.

"Some people will start screaming when they see you coming. They just know something is seriously wrong when a uniformed soldier comes to their door," George said.

"The first thing I do is verify who I'm talking to, to ensure I don't give the news to a visiting neighbor," said Antone. If the person he's identified as the primary next of kin or person authorized to direct disposition is alone, "I wait until they call someone to come and be with them. I stay as long as they need me. I know they'll tell me when they want me to leave."

After that day, the family usually doesn't see the CNO again, because they associate that person with the bad news, Antone said.

According to regulation, a CAO visits the primary next of kin within 24 hours after they've been notified of the death. He helps the family do everything from planning funeral and burial services to filing necessary paperwork for survivor benefits and protecting the bereaved family's privacy.

The CAO is expected to know enough about various religions to be sensitive to their edicts, and enough about such things as unpaid pay and allowances, veterans affairs, social security, state benefits and the Survivor Benefit Plan to be able to talk intelligently about them to survivors.

When the next of kin is a dependent, the CAO has to know where and how to obtain a new identification card that will allow the next of kin to continue using post exchange, commissary and medical treatment facilities, Antone said.

The CAO helps the family file the paperwork for the standard $6,000 death-gratuity payment made to the primary family member — a blood relative, by regulation — of every soldier killed on active duty. The payment, usually made within 72 hours of death notification, helps defray burial costs, Antone said.

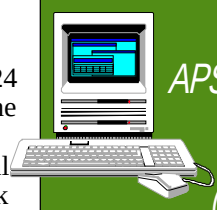
Often, it's the CAO who presents the check, and it's not always easily accepted, he said. Sometimes the person who receives it is hostile, viewing the payment as an attempt by the Army to compensate for the family's loss.

Tragedy Assistance

ANYONE who has been affected by the death of an active-duty soldier killed in the line of duty is eligible to receive 24-hour assistance through the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

The national, nonprofit organization provides free services, including a peer support group, grief- and trauma-counseling referral, stress management through case-worker assistance, financial planning information and more.

An annual military survivor seminar and quarterly newsletter are also provided. — *Heike Hasenauer*



APS counselors may be reached by calling toll free (800) 959-TAPS, or by visiting www.taps.org.

"... in nearly every case, casualty-assistance officers stay in contact with the family for a very long time. It's not unusual for life-long relationships to develop between the CAOs and the bereaved families with whom they work so closely."

As a representative of the secretary of the Army — "to render all reasonable assistance required to settle the personal affairs of a missing or deceased soldier" — the CAO must be sensitive to such emotions, Salley said. At the same time, the CAO must keep the association with the family on a professional level at all times. Refraining from getting personally involved during the family's period of grief may be the toughest part of the job.

The CAO's duties extend from 24 hours after the initial visit to approximately 90 days after the burial, roughly the time it takes for entitlements and benefits to be processed, Salley said.

"But, in nearly every case, casualty-assistance officers stay in contact with the family for a very long time. It's not unusual for lifelong relationships to develop between the CAOs and the bereaved families with whom they work so closely," she added.

The CAO's first job is to determine the family's immediate needs or problems. If financial assistance is needed, for example, the CAO would arrange a visit with Army Emergency Relief or American Red Cross workers, Salley said.

If the family's overwhelmed by funeral arrangements, the CAO might become involved in coordinating transportation and accommodations for relatives and friends arriving for the funeral and burial services, she said.

Hundreds of people gathered to pay their last respects to Commons. His divorced parents, stepmother, brother and two half-brothers were there. So were members of the clergy from his hometown church in Boulder City, Nev., and his father's church in Virginia.

While most of the soldiers from his unit, the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, from Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., were still in Afghanistan, some 1st Bn. soldiers were there. Others represented the regiment's 3rd Bn.

High-ranking officials also often attend Arlington burials. Then specific protocol procedures come into play.

Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki paid his respects at Commons' burial service, as did BG Richard Mills, commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

Mills presented Commons' parents with the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for

Paul Disney

As in this re-enactment, casualty-assistance officers such as 1LT Craig George visit the family within 24 hours after the notification of the soldier's death.

The CAO's satisfaction comes from the knowledge he or she prevents the families further grief by providing timely, accurate information and shouldering some of the overwhelming demands they face.

SSG Alberto Betancourt

Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment *(center)* pay their last respects to CPL Matthew A. Commons as he is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetary.

valor and Meritorious Service Medal, all awarded posthumously to their son. He'd also been posthumously promoted to corporal.

Antone and George will perform the roles of CNO and CAO, alternately, while they're assigned to the CAC for a standard two- to three-year tour of duty. Yet the duties are often performed by officers and senior NCOs who are not members of a CAC, but who are trained by CAC personnel and called upon when a particular CAC can't handle its workload alone.

Such was the case following the Sept. 11 Pentagon attack. The CAC then depended on people trained in casualty procedures to help train additional CNOs and CAOs, said Antone, because so many of the victims' families live in the area. The 11-member MDW CAC includes two officers, an NCO, a civilian mortuary officer and seven administrative personnel.

Compounding the need for help was the fact that the Department of Defense extended CNO and CAO services to the families of DOD civilian employees and contractors injured or killed in the Pentagon attack. That assistance is offered on a case-by-case basis to civilians, Salley said, but generally applies only when a DOD employee is killed or injured while assigned overseas, or on temporary-duty status.

Anyone unfamiliar with casualty and mortuary affairs regulations and procedures might well wonder how CAOs learn all there is to know, Salley said. But the CACs have formal training programs and refresher courses.

Antone and George incorporate information from Army Regulation 600-8-1, "Casualty Reporting, Notification and Assistance," AR 638-2, "Care and Disposition of Remains and Disposition of Personal Effects," and a casualty-assistance officers guide published by PERSCOM's Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center.

Subject-matter experts, videos and the casualty-affairs officer's own firsthand experiences are also used to teach others to do what PERSCOM officials have described as two of the most demanding jobs in the Army, Antone said.

"It's not easy to be the bearer of bad news or witness a family's pain over a period of weeks or months," Antone said. The CAO's satisfaction comes from knowing he or she prevents the families' further grief by providing timely, accurate information and shouldering some of the overwhelming demands they face at a most critical time in their lives.

"When it's over, the actions of the CNO and CAO often form the last impression the survivors will have of the Army," Salley said. That impression should be that the Army is professional and strong, but compassionate and caring as well. □

Who's Eligible?

CASUALTY notification and assistance is provided to the next of kin of active-duty soldiers, reserve-component soldiers on active duty, soldiers who have been listed as absent without leave, soldiers who have not yet been out of the Army for 120 days after discharge, Army retirees, Department of the Army civilians on oversees assignment or temporary-duty status, and overseas dependents.

"Casualty" refers to someone who is killed, injured or missing.

— Heike Hasenauer

United by Old Glory

Story by Beth Reece Photos by Paul Disney

AMERICANS often declare their patriotism by waving star-spangled banners — on cars and buildings, on shirts and jewelry, from bridges and from doorsteps.

We don't need Flag Day to appreciate the power of Old Glory. As sorrow and disbelief blanketed the nation Sept. 11, the American flag healed us. It inspired and united us.

The hallowed flags we flew after last fall's tragedy relayed our collective love for America and our faith in a safe, free land. The more flags we unfurled, the more determined we were to protect the very liberty and justice that our Stars and Stripes stand for.

Most Americans still recall one of the day's most arresting photographs — that of three firefighters lifting a flag before the ash and rubble that was once the World Trade Center. That image is strikingly similar to the celebrated World War II photograph of six marines raising an American flag at Iwo Jima. These enduring scenes help shape our mental images of U.S. history.

With a new spotlight on our national colors — and consumers' demand for anything red, white and blue — many citizens believe that the events of Sept. 11 aroused renewed regard for the American flag, and instilled in many of us a stronger sense of patriotism. The flag is now a common sight at businesses and homes throughout the nation. It continues to announce our determination to protect America, no matter whether we are servicemembers or civilians.

As we celebrate the historic journey of our national emblem this June 14, take some time to tidy up the flags that have been on display since last fall. If your flag is dirty, wash or dry-clean it. If you see flags that are now worn and frayed, replace them with new ones.

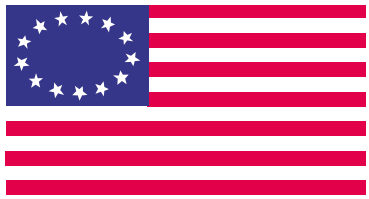
We are indebted to Old Glory for the pride it stirs. May our renewed love and respect for the flag be captured in traditions that outlast our battle against terrorism. □

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

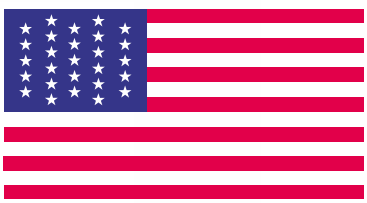
United by Old Glory

THE American flag has had many faces since its birth on June 14, 1777.

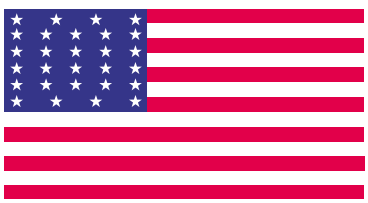
Some variations were due to Congress' indecision about whether states newly admitted to the union should be represented by stars or by stripes. Other alterations resulted from designers' interpretations of the flag. In 1934, Congress finally approved a code of etiquette to standardize the appearance and presentation of the American flag.



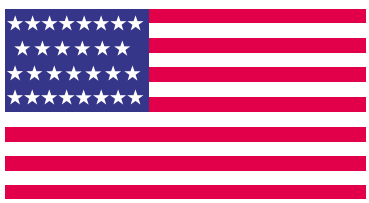
June 14, 1777 (13 stars)
Delaware
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Georgia
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Maryland
South Carolina
New Hampshire
Virginia
New York
North Carolina
Rhode Island



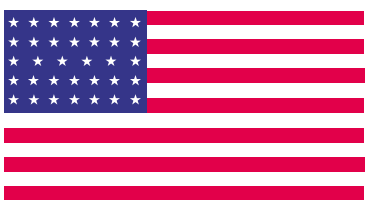
July 4, 1845 (27 stars)
Florida



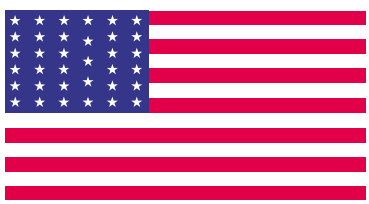
July 4, 1846 (28 stars)
Texas



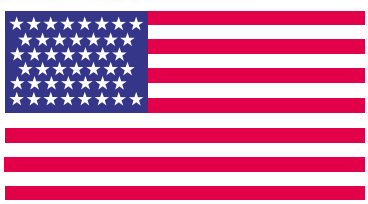
July 4, 1847 (29 stars)
Iowa



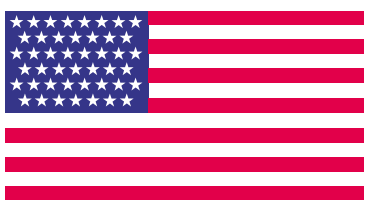
July 4, 1861 (34 stars)
Kansas



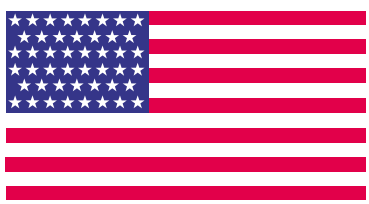
July 4, 1863 (35 stars)
West Virginia



July 4, 1891 (44 stars)
Wyoming



July 4, 1896 (45 stars)
Utah

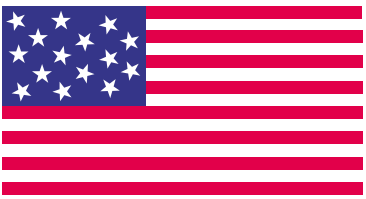


July 4, 1908 (46 stars)
Oklahoma

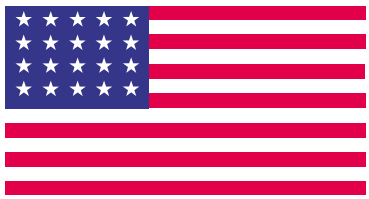
(Source: National Flag Foundation • www.usflag.org)

Soldiers
The Official U.S. Army Magazine
www.soldiersmagazine.com

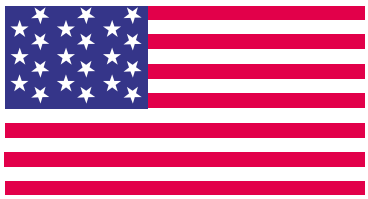
A Nation's True Colors



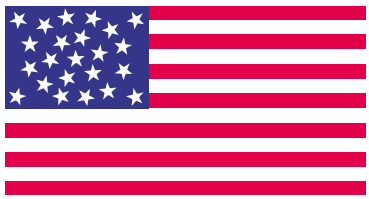
May 1, 1795 (15 stars)
Vermont
Kentucky



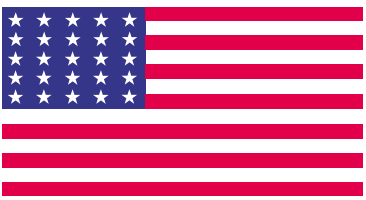
April 13, 1818 (20 stars)
Tennessee, Ohio
Louisiana, Indiana
Mississippi



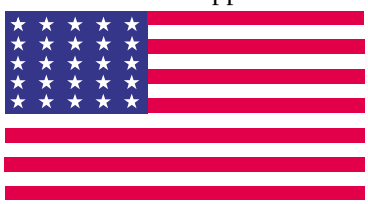
July 4, 1819 (21 stars)
Illinois



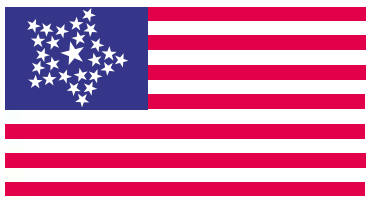
July 4, 1820 (23 stars)
Alabama
Maine



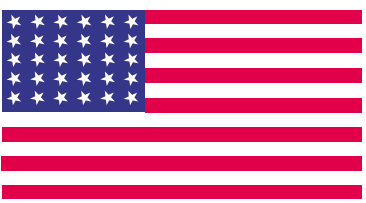
July 4, 1822 (24 stars)
Missouri



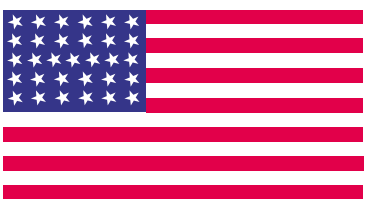
July 4, 1836 (25 stars)
Arkansas



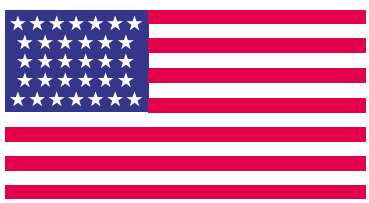
July 4, 1837 (26 stars)
Michigan



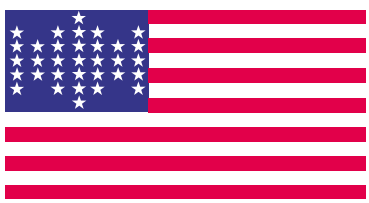
July 4, 1848 (30 stars)
Wisconsin



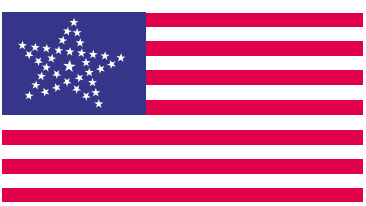
July 4, 1851 (31 stars)
California



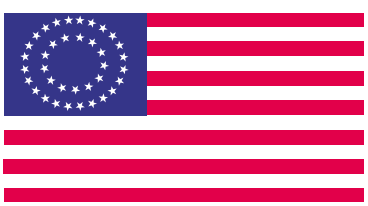
July 4, 1858 (32 stars)
Minnesota



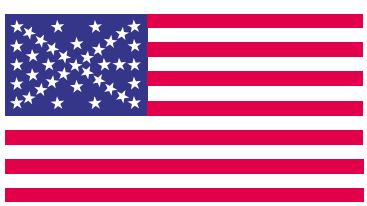
July 4, 1859 (33 stars)
Oregon



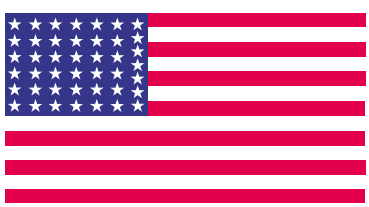
July 4, 1865 (36 stars)
Nevada



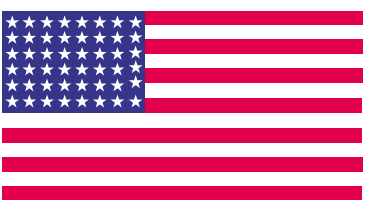
July 4, 1867 (37 stars)
Nebraska



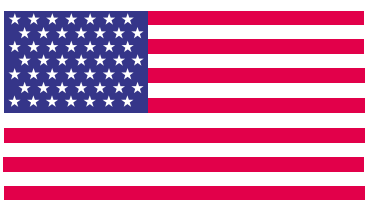
July 4, 1877 (38 stars)
Colorado



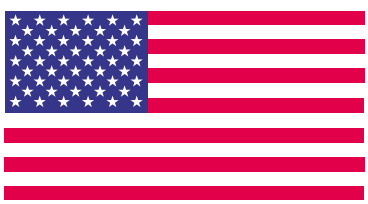
July 4, 1890 (43 stars)
North Dakota, South Dakota
Montana, Washington
Idaho



July 4, 1912 (48 stars)
New Mexico
Arizona



July 4, 1959 (49 stars)
Alaska



July 4, 1960 (50 stars)
Hawaii

United We Stand

Wearing his own BDUs and beret, Cody Weadon, 7, of Fredricksburg, Va., salutes the flag.

Star Spangled Manners

✪ June 14 is Flag Day and the U.S. Army's birthday.

Displaying the Flag

✪ The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, unless it is illuminated at night.

✪ A flag displayed over a street should be hung vertically with the union to the north or east. If suspended over a sidewalk, the union should be farthest from the building.

✪ When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

✪ When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left).

✪ When displayed with other flags, the American flag may not be smaller. It is always the first flag raised and the last lowered.

✪ The flag should not touch the ground and should be protected from soil and dirt. If the flag becomes dirty, it should be washed or dry-cleaned.

✪ Flags with rips and frayed edges should be removed from display and destroyed in a dignified flag-burning ceremony. Most veterans' groups and American Legion posts conduct routine flag-burning ceremonies.

✪ During joint or multi-national operations, unit commanders may require U.S. soldiers to wear the full-color U.S. flag cloth replica on utility and organizational uniforms. The cloth is worn so that the star field faces forward or to the flag's own right. When worn in this manner, the flag is facing the observer's right and gives the effect of a flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward.

(Laws relating to flag etiquette are detailed in the United States Code.)

Flying 24/7

Presidential proclamations and laws authorize the American flag to be flown 24 hours a day at the following locations:

✪ Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Md.

✪ Flag House Square at Albemarle and Pratt Streets in Baltimore, Md.

✪ U.S. Marine Corp (Iwo Jima) Memorial in Arlington, Va.

✪ On the green of the town of Lexington, Massachusetts.

✪ The White House and Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.

✪ U.S. Customs ports of entry.

✪ Grounds of the National Memorial Arch in Valley Forge State Park at Valley Forge, Pa.

Superflag

Superflag is the world's largest U.S. flag. Measuring 505 feet by 255 feet and weighing 3,000 pounds, Superflag is transported in a motor-home trailer and requires at least 500 people for setup. Superflag has been seen by millions of spectators at sporting events and national celebrations across the country. It flew twice at the Army-Navy Football Classic.

A Jump to Celebrate

Story and Photos by
PFC Jason B. Baker

SPC Leah Falkner *(right)* HHC 27th Engineer Bn., and fellow paratroopers *(above)* are all smiles after completing the all-female airborne operation at Fort Bragg, N.C.

WITH families and friends watching, some 100 female paratroopers jumped from aircraft in the skies over Fort Bragg, N.C., landed safely, collected their parachutes and double-timed off the drop zone.

The third-annual jump, sponsored by Fort Bragg's 16th Military Police Brigade, offered a venue in which female paratroopers could meet and celebrate Womens' History Month. It also allowed them to demonstrate their collective capability to perform all the tasks necessary to complete an airborne operation.

"On most jumps, I'm the only female," said 1LT Ann Clinton of the 503rd MP Battalion. "This was a completely different experience. Every member of the parachute detail — the jumpmasters, the safeties, even the Air Force flight-crew members — was female."

MSG Pamela Luce, the primary jumpmaster from the 16th MP Bde., said the annual event celebrates female paratroopers' contributions to the total force and motivates younger female soldiers to set goals that might seem out of reach, but really aren't.

"This was a real eye-opener for the younger female jumpers," she said. "Some had never experienced a jump directed by a female primary jumpmaster. It's good for them to see that women can conduct an entire airborne operation."

SPC Angela Monseuir, of Headquarters and HQs. Detachment, 525th Military Intelligence Bn., said: "I realized that one day I, too, can become a jumpmaster. This event definitely left a lasting impression on me."

"The history of women in the military is a history of love of country, service, commitment, dedication and courage," said COL Mary Meyer, commander of the 16th MP Bde. and guest speaker at the event. "Every woman who participated in this event demonstrated that courage and love of country, and for that I salute them." □

After a safe landing, 2LT Wendy Bresnyan of the 327th Signal Battalion collects her parachute and reserve before leaving the drop zone.

PFC Jason B. Baker is a member of Fort Bragg's 49th Public Affairs Detachment.

An EOD technician in a heavy bomb suit gets a last-minute check from another technician before moving in to take a closer look at an improvised explosive device.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Story by SGT Sharon McBride
Photos by Heike Hasenauer

Learning to use robots to locate, observe and in some cases neutralize explosive devices is one aspect of the EOD technicians' training. Students spend 24 weeks in Phase 1 training and a further 26 days in Phase 2 schooling.

SWEAT pours off the explosive ordnance disposal technician's face as he looks down at a bomb that's set to go off within moments. He quickly decides what to do, and within seconds renders the bomb harmless.

For soldiers who perform one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army — neutralizing bombs and other explosive devices — making a quick and correct decision can mean the difference between life and death.

"You have to know what you're doing," said MSG Kent Hamann, an EOD technician since 1984. "You've got to be focused." And, unlike the heroes depicted in movies, who sweat "buckets" before snipping a wire that miraculously turns out to be the right one, "we have to know which one to snip, because there could be a time when we have to make that decision."

SSG Sharon McBride works in the Public Affairs Office at the Ordnance, Missile and Munitions Center and School at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

EOD: *Life & Death Difference*

During a break in a field training exercise, EOD soldiers study an X-ray taken of a mock unexploded aerial bomb discovered nearby.

The EOD field doesn't draw large numbers of recruits, but it's vitally important to the Army.

EOD, the 55D military occupational specialty, doesn't draw large numbers of recruits, but it's vitally important to the Army. Besides rendering improvised explosive devices safe, EOD technicians also eliminate unexploded ordnance in operational areas and on military installations. All soldiers who enter EOD training volunteer for the job. Lately, the number of applicants has dwindled.

Soldiers who do enter the career field undergo extensive training, Hamann said. Many EOD soldiers spend over a year in school. The first specialized training in the MOS, conducted at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., begins after a soldier has completed basic training.

The 10 weeks of introductory courses focus on what it takes to be an EOD technician. Next, students travel to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for 24 weeks of Phase 1 training. Then it's back to Redstone Arsenal for 26 days of Phase 2 training.

Besides learning how to handle bombs and unexploded ordnance, the prospective EOD technicians also learn about hazardous materials, waste transportation and management, proper wear of protective suits, how to use EOD robots and, finally, how to support the U.S. Secret Service and State Department in their protection of high-ranking officials.

"I've traveled to places I never thought I would, like Somalia and Kuwait, to protect high-level officials," Hamann said. "This MOS requires a lot of travel. And there's no telling where you'll end up from day to day."

Travel is actually one of the perks of the job, he said. "But as an EOD soldier, you never know what's going to be waiting at your destination.

"You've got to want to put your life on the line," Hamann continued. "One day you could walk into an impact area with unexploded ordnance or a place where you have to disconnect the timing device on a bomb. You generally can't plan out your week. You've got to be ready to go at a

An EOD robot heads out for a look at a reported bomb. Such robots allow technicians to closely examine explosive devices without endangering themselves.

A soldier prepares to X-ray a simulated explosive device during a training exercise. X-rays can reveal a real device's contents and inner structure, and allow the EOD tech to spot possible booby traps.

moment's notice."

Many of the soldiers attracted to the profession are drawn to its inherent excitement, Hamann said. "There's nothing mundane about the work."

But the job's impact on family life can be a drawback, as is the case for most deployable soldiers, Hamann said. Family and friends have to understand that the job comes first. "I've had to call my wife and tell her, 'I'm going on an incident mission and I'll call you when I get back.'"

When he's out on a job, loved ones worry, much as they would if he were on the front line in combat, he said. "When I go out, there's always the chance I won't come back."

So why does anyone want to enter so dangerous a profession? "For most EOD technicians, it comes down to honor and a sense of duty," Hamann said. That's equally true for those who have been on the job many years, as well as for young soldiers who are moving up in the ranks.

"I wanted a job where I could help the public," said PV2 David Smith soon after entering the first phase of EOD training at Redstone Arsenal.

"I love life," Smith said. "So doing this sometimes makes me nervous. But as my training continues, my skills will increase. Other soldiers do this. I know I can, too."

The "old-timers" include people like 15-year EOD veteran SFC Ken Thompson.

"You can't put your finger on the character traits required to be an EOD technician," Thompson said. "We all blend so well together. We work well together, no matter what. I could be fighting mad at one of my fellow NCOs, but I have to be able to set that aside while on a mission."

While EOD soldiers draw hazardous-duty pay, they don't typically enter the MOS for the extra money, Thompson said. "You can make more money cleaning up unexploded ordnance and disarming bombs in the civilian sector. It's about duty and honor, not fame and glory. I've seen what people can do to other people. I've seen a kid blown up. This is what I can do to keep things like that from happening."

EOD soldiers often help foreign countries clear the minefields that get

left behind after the fighting stops.

"I've been in EOD for 21 years, and in the Army for 25 years," said SGM Jack Dempsey. "I think it's the best job in the Army. Every day is different. I've cleared mine fields in Africa, and I've taught basic EOD procedures to soldiers in foreign armies."

The EOD ranks currently include fewer than 1,000 soldiers. Of those, some 25 are women.

"Not many women make it through the training," said SPC Elaine Corales as she embarked on the first phase of training. "I want to do this because the work will be challenging and interesting," said the former South Carolina high school teacher.

Those who make the cut can consider themselves "a cut above," school officials said. The attrition rate for the MOS is very high, 42.2 percent last year, Hamann said. □

A technician works to defuse a simulated land mine during an exercise. Mine field clearance is an important aspect of the job for EOD units.

SFC Tony Hammerquist of the 710th Ordnance Company carries an unexploded rocket round found a few hundred yards from the gate of Kandahar Airport.

EOD in Afghanistan

Story by SPC David Marck
Photos by SPC George Allen

AFTER more than 20 years of war, the Afghan country side is littered with unexploded mortar rounds, bombs, rockets, land mines and thousands of rounds of ammunition — some never fired, some duds.

The 710th Ordnance Company, an active Army unit out of Port Loma, a Navy base in San Diego, Calif., is tasked with the critical job of clearing these sites. The 710th is also the only active-duty Army unit in the San Diego area, which is home to many Navy and Marine units.

Some Canadian army EOD specialists are working with the 710th, so the clearing of munitions is a coalition effort.

SPC David Marck and SPC George Allen are assigned to the 314th Press Camp Headquarters in Afghanistan.

The locations of munitions caches, unexploded ordnance and land mines are reported to the 710th daily by roving patrols and Afghan nationals.

"We start with a list of locations where somebody reported seeing something," said SFC Tony Hammerquist, the 710th's operations NCO. "It could be one land mine or a cache of howitzer shells. What we have to do is check all of the sightings, determine what's there and then decide on the best way to take care of it."

"The first assessment is down and dirty," said SSG Grant Adkins, an EOD team leader. "We have to assess what's most important before we do anything."

"We're looking for anything that poses a direct threat to coalition forces. Our top priority is any kind of shoulder-fired missile," said Hammerquist, who has been working in EOD for 12 years. "After that we're looking for grenades and mines — anything that can be easily redeployed against our troops."

The EOD teams often don't find anything at the sites.

Most of the ordnance was left over from the Soviet Union's 10-year war in Afghanistan. "But the locals will just pick things up and move them," Hammerquist said, "or the ordnance could be picked up by anti-Taliban forces for their use."

"Often we just find large dirt mounds," Adkins said. "We usually find the caches buried under the mounds, but we often don't know what we're going to find, and that's the scary part."

Once they decide that the cache poses a threat and needs to be destroyed, the team decides how best to do it.

"If it's safe to move, we'll just pick it up and carry it to the location of a larger cache so we can blow it all together," said Hammerquist. "If it's too dangerous, we'll just blow it in place."

EOD detonations are a common sound around the airfield. Sometimes the explosions are so strong that they rattle the windows in the airport terminal, despite the fact that the ordnance is being detonated several miles outside the airport's perimeter, Hammerquist said.

"We've been here since Jan. 23," said 1LT Kevin Wynes, commander of the 710th. "We've done detonations almost every day. We could never get rid of all the stuff that's out here. That's why we have to prioritize."

Besides the standard weapons and munitions caches, the EOD teams also find other unexploded ordnance.

As SSG Grant Adkins *(left)* and a local Afghan look on, Canadian army Sgt. Kory Fisher looks through a reference manual to identify a land mine discovered near a coalition position.

"Occasionally we'll run across a minefield," said Adkins. "We mark our tracks to keep people from going in there. We also mark the location on the map and send the information up the chain of command."

The rest, he said, is the job of the combat engineers. While EOD has the resources and expertise to take care of the caches and single explosives, they don't have the manpower to handle an entire minefield.

EOD also takes care of any unexploded ordnance that coalition forces may have placed in the area that hasn't been destroyed.

About the size of a soft drink can and painted a bright yellow, BLU-97 cluster bombs were used by the Air Force in the early stages of the war. Released in canisters, each contained over 200 of the explosives that drifted to the ground on parachutes and detonated on impact. Unfortunately, a small percentage didn't explode.

"They're too sensitive to move," Hammerquist said. "Just settling in the sand or being blown about by a strong gust of wind can set them off." In order to destroy them, an EOD team builds a fighting position on top of a vehicle, and a sharpshooter wearing body armor uses a .50-caliber sniper rifle to detonate the canisters.

"Our job is dangerous," said Hammerquist, "but it's what we do. It's a lot like an airborne operation. It's risky, but if everyone does what they're trained to do, everyone comes out alive." □

Strengthening International Ties

WHINSEC

Story and Photos by SGT Daniel Monroy

At Fort Benning, Ga., Spanish-speaking U.S. and foreign officers are learning the fine points of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

WHILE leaders focus on transforming the Army into a more lethal, mobile force to respond to ever-increasing contingencies around the world, Army instructors at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, a tenant at Fort Benning, Ga., are teaching their students the fine points of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

"Transitioning from a conventional-conflict mindset to that of operations other than war is an important focus of the curriculum at the institute," said student MAJ Eric Rodriguez, an Army Reserve medical operations and intelligence officer.

Like most field-grade officers, Rodriguez, who's attending WHINSEC's Command and General Staff Officer Course, is learning to head large-scale noncombat operations. An important part of that involves learning how to teach soldiers to alter their thinking from that of a combat soldier to a humanitarian, he said.

The 49-week course, the longest course of some 20 offered at the institute, is geared toward battalion and brigade commanders, to teach them how to work effectively with nongovernmental organizations that often participate in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations. These include such organizations as the American Red Cross, Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders, Rodriguez said.

The curriculum incorporates lessons learned from past military operations and classes in U.S. operations-other-than-war doctrine, as well as the unique considerations of conducting business in Latin American

Dr. Steven Rozman of Tougaloo College and Venezuelan Capt. Moriama Carolina Vargas, WHINSEC guest instructor, discuss poverty in Latin America during a WHINSEC-sponsored conference.

SGT Daniel Monroy is assigned to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Civilian, military and police members of a resource-management class work together during a practical exercise involving the formulation of a defense budget.

countries, said MAJ Maricela Alvarado, a recent CGSOC graduate.

WHINSEC's CGSOC is equivalent to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and is accredited by the Department of the Army. Unlike other CGSCs, however, it's conducted entirely in Spanish, making it a much sought-after course by international students, said COL Richard Downie, the institute's commandant.

Other of WHINSEC's courses — all of which "cover most areas of joint and interagency operations relevant to a particular region" — range from the Democratic Sustainment Course to the Counterdrug Operations Course, Downie said.

As is true of other Defense Department-run international schools, WHINSEC's curriculum is developed in keeping with international laws and principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American states, an organization similar to the United Nations, said Downie.

A focus on human rights is a critical aspect of that charter, he said. Every course taught at WHINSEC therefore contains a common thread: human rights discussions and training. Depending on the length of a particular course, each student receives from eight to 40 hours of training in subjects that include: Ethics, Due Process, Rule of Law, Civilian Control of the Military, Role of the Military in a Democratic Society, Law of Land Warfare, the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and International Humanitarian Law.

The human-rights program was developed to create respect for human rights among members of the armed forces, law enforcement, and government and nongovernment agencies, in all aspects of operations, said MAJ Antonio Raimondo, chief of WHINSEC's International Law Division, and the institute's judge advocate general.

"Working at the institute has been a wonderful experience. It's allowed me to learn so much from so many people," said Capt. Moriama Carolina Vargas, an attorney in the Venezuelan army, and a guest instructor of human rights at the institute.

She's one of several foreign officers and police serving as cadre at the school.

With its focus on joint operations and security in the Western Hemisphere, coupled with an emphasis on human rights, WHINSEC is dedicated to strengthening ties between the United States and other nations, predominantly those of Central and South America and their neighbors. □

Other students listen as a Colombian army officer briefs them on the progress of a simulated humanitarian-relief operation.

During a role-playing exercise, U.S. Army CGSOC student MAJ Maricela Alvarado illustrates the movement of "enemy" armor for fellow students.

Postmarks Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt

From Army Posts Around the World

PFC J. Wilson Guthrie

1LT Laurie Green, a platoon leader with the 92nd Engineer Battalion, helps an Afghan child try on a new coat donated by schoolchildren in Green's hometown of Morehead City, N.C.

Bagram, Afghanistan

From Cries to Laughter at Bagram Airfield

SPANISH and American doctors at Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield are replacing children's cries with laughter.

Lt. Col. Jose Peralba, a Spanish doctor, and Dr. (MAJ) Gerard Curran from the 261st Medical Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., run a clinic that treats children from a village just beyond the airfield's perimeter.

"I'm very happy to be here doing my job," said Curran, Task Force Bagram's medical chief. "Most of the medical problems we handle are simple things, such as ear infections. It makes me feel good to know that the medicines we provide will help these children."

Children ranging in age from one month to 12 years are watched closely by their veiled mothers as they wait outside mud-brick walls to see the doctors.

The medicines the physicians prescribe for the children were bought with money donated by soldiers in Afghanistan, Curran said.

"Those soldiers will never know the full impact their acts of kindness are having," he said.

Besides medicine, the team provides the children some defense against Afghanistan's bitter winter weather.

1LT Laurie Green, a platoon leader with Company B, 92nd Engineer Bn., from Fort Stewart, Ga., fits each child with a new coat before the family leaves the compound.

Students from St. Egbert's Catholic School in Morehead City, N.C, donated the coats. Green's mother, a kindergarten and art teacher at the school, shipped several boxes of coats to Afghanistan.

"Laurie mentioned the idea during one of our phone conversations," Mrs. Green said. "Helping the Afghan children has made the war in Afghanistan 'real' for our students."

Peralba said a child's smile is very rewarding.

"Hopefully, these children will remember that the coalition forces were kind and good to them," he said. — *CPT Tom Bryant, ARCENT Kuwait Public Affairs Office*

Okinawa, Japan

Wartime Album Returned

A PHOTO album taken from Okinawa 56 years ago has been returned to the Japanese family that originally owned it.

Paul Barger had often thought about the photo album's yellowing pages and imagined what Kensho Higa, whose named appeared inside, might have been like. Barger also often thought about returning the album to him or his family.

In April 1945 then-CPL Barger, of Battery D, 504th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, was part of the American invasion force that landed on Okinawa. During the battle for the island he came upon a ruined house, where he found the album

The young soldier took the album as a souvenir, stuck it in a bag, then forgot about it. The "souvenir" lay in his mother's cedar chest for decades.

PFC J. Wilson Guthrie

Dr. (MAJ) Gerard Curran, Task Force Bagram's medical officer, examines an Afghan baby in the clinic.

Kazuo Yoshida *(right)* explains to MG Alan Johnson through interpreter Keiko McPherson the importance of the photo album.

"Like other World War II veterans, I tried to forget about the war and everything connected to it," Barger said. "But I recently started thinking about the album again. It has no value to me, but I thought it might be treasured by the owner or the family of those pictured in the album."

Cindy Bell, Barger's daughter, began an Internet search to locate the album's owner. She also requested the help of personnel at the U.S. Army, Japan, Public Affairs Office.

Carlos Bongioanni (both)

This 1945 photo of Yoshida, his two siblings and his aunt is one of 310 pictures in the 79-page album.

Initially, no one could identify the family in the photos. However, further research revealed that Higa was an Okinawa City doctor who had served with the Japanese army. He was killed during the war and was survived by his wife and five children.

Officials at the Yomitan village ward office invited Kazuo Yoshida, Higa's eldest son, to view several of the scanned and printed images from the album to verify whether the photos were of his family. One was a portrait of Yoshida and his brother, along with their mother, nanny and nurse. The outfits they wore helped identify the people in the photos.

"I'm delighted to be able to see what my father looked like when he was young," said Itsuko Matayoshi, Higa's eldest daughter, who didn't remember her father because she was only four years old when he died.

"I'm looking forward to putting all the photos back in one album," Katzuo said.

"But first I will place this album on the family altar and tell my late parents about how we got it. I'll never forget this special day," he said. — *SGT Annette B. Andrews, USARJ PAO*

Camp Casey, Korea

Center Honors Sept. 11 Victim

SIX months after the Sept. 11 crash of a jetliner into the Pentagon, the 2nd Infantry Division dedicated the LTG Timothy J. Maude Soldier Support Center to honor the highest-ranking soldier killed in the attack. Maude was the Army's assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"He had a passion for taking care of soldiers," said his widow, Teri Maude. "That was his sole purpose in the Army."

Words to that effect are inscribed on his tombstone, she said. She and her daughters, Karen and Kathi, established a scholarship fund for soldiers in Maude's name.

MG Russel Honoré, commanding general of the 2nd Inf. Div., said it was an honor to name the center in memory of a soldier who spent his life taking care of others.

"May this building that now bears his name forever inspire and remind those who walk its halls that this is a place where soldiers' needs are attended to," Honoré said. — *MSG Dave Meloncon, 2nd ID PAO*

Heather Hilton

MG Russel L. Honoré and Teresa C. Maude unveil a picture of the late LTG Timothy J. Maude.

Focus on People Compiled by Heike Hasenauer

Blanchard: Teaching in Kosovo

For 1LT Scott Blanchard, a 9mm pistol is required equipment in the classroom.

UNIVERSITY of Maryland instructors don't usually carry weapons in the classroom, but for one math teacher in Kosovo a 9mm pistol is required equipment.

ILT Scott Blanchard, a military police platoon leader assigned to the 66th Military Police Company from Fort Lewis, Wash., teaches a University of Maryland math class to soldiers deployed to an outpost in Kamenica, Kosovo.

Unlike the student body at most college campuses, his students are all members of his unit. The 1st platoon's soldiers man an MP substation in Kamenica, from which they conduct patrols and provide security for the area.

The outpost, about an hour's drive from the platoon's base camp at Camp Monteith, has few amenities. Food and mail have to be delivered. The nearest education center offering college courses is also at Camp Monteith. Soldiers at the outpost can take correspondence or Internet courses but, without an instructor, can't take regular college courses.

Because Blanchard has an engineering degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., university officials waived the standard requirement that their instructors have a master's degree; they considered the fact that the USMA's engineering program is math-intensive.

Soldiers in Blanchard's platoon can therefore accumulate college credit while they're forward-deployed. They also have the benefit of having an instructor who's always available to answer questions.

"The 'LT' is more than happy to stay after class, or answer questions when we're on a mission, when we take a break for chow or something," said SGT Codean Henriques.

College credit is not the only benefit for the platoon. Taking the course together helps the soldiers work as a team. "It builds platoon cohesion," said PFC Blair Grisham.

Angela Schneider, another University of Maryland instructor in Kosovo, has high praise for soldiers who are willing to give their time and energy to teaching college classes. "They're not interested in themselves, they're interested in their soldiers. That's the kind of teachers we want." — *U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs Office*

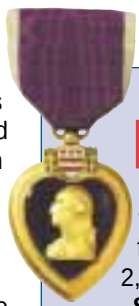
MAJ Patrick Crabtree, a military police officer assigned as a writer and instructor of military subjects at the U. S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C., donated one of his kidneys to a member of his church less than a year ago.

Beverly Humphrey, the 31-year-old recipient, had suffered from diabetes since she was 10 and had been on dialysis for a year. Without a kidney transplant, her chances of survival were grim, said Crabtree, who met Humphrey in 1999 at the church they both attend.

"Many people are blessed with good health, and many others are born without it," he said. "Donating a kidney was the right thing to do."

After consulting with his family about what he planned to do, and getting their blessing, Crabtree underwent the preliminaries required by Duke University Medical Center physicians in Durham, N.C, where the surgery was performed. These included a simple blood test to determine its properties.

One of six antigens — substances in the body that stimulate the production of antibodies against



FOR a soldier, the possibility of getting killed or wounded in combat is a cold, stark reality, said **1LT Bradley Maroyka,** a platoon leader with the 10th Mountain Division. He knows firsthand, because he was wounded twice March 2, during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan.

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and **Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki** recently presented the 25-year-old infantry officer the Purple Heart for his wounds.

White and Shinseki, along with **SGM of the Army Jack L. Tilley,** presented the Purple Heart to 17 wounded soldiers who were recuperating from injuries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Three other soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and

infection and foreign tissue cells — matched. It meant the possibility of Humphrey's body rejecting the donated kidney would be reduced.

"They also checked my kidney function and blood flow, and performed a CAT scan of the kidneys to help determine which kidney to take," Crabtree said.

"I received approval from my supervisors and the Army surgeon general to go ahead with the procedure. Timing was critical," said Crabtree, "because Beverly's veins were failing due to the dialysis."

Nella Hobson

Crabtree: Kidney donor.

Two days after the surgery he was back home at Fort Jackson, where his condition was monitored at the post hospital.

Crabtree had been granted permissive TDY for travel to North Carolina and, after the surgery, went on sick call and convalescent leave with a restricted profile for two weeks.

"After six weeks, I resumed my normal schedule," Crabtree said. Humphrey was able to resume her normal activities at about the same time. Today she's a volunteer, working with other diabetics. — *Nella Hobson, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School PAO*

SIX months and a day after being burned over more than 60 percent of his body when a jetliner slammed into the Pentagon in September, **LTC Brian Birdwell** returned to work.

The 40-year-old Quartermaster Corps officer will initially work two half-days a week, he said. Birdwell, who has undergone several skin-graft operations, faces more surgery. He wears compression garments to lessen scarring around the numerous grafts, and continues a grueling physical-therapy regimen.

Birdwell was walking down corridor 4, on the Pentagon's second floor, on his way to coordinate military support for victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York when the attack on the Pentagon occurred. The airliner plowed through several of the Pentagon's rings, just north of where Birdwell was working, and he was immediately engulfed in flames.

He managed to stagger through the smoke and was rescued by a group of officers attempting to locate and get people out of the building.

He spent 26 days in intensive care and another month in recovery before he was released from the hospital for bed rest at a local hotel and convalescent leave at home.

Today, his body is 75-percent healed, said Birdwell, who's doing whatever it takes to reach the 100-percent mark. To increase his stamina, he does situps, walks and swims.

"Doctors say it takes about six days of moderate physical activity to make up for one day of inactivity — bed rest," Birdwell said. "That means I've got about 20 months of work to do."

Before the terrorist attack, Birdwell was the military assistant to the deputy chief of staff for installation management. Because of his lack of stamina, he can't face the 12- to 14-hour workdays that the job required. Today he's working as an anti-terrorism and force-protection staff officer. — *Army News Service*

Birdwell was burned over more than 60 percent of his body when an airliner slammed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

slated to get Purple Hearts from the Army's top leaders had already been released from the hospital on convalescent leave.

"We get put in harm's way. That's the nature of what we do," Maroyka said. "Every wounded soldier here today knew when he raised his right hand and swore to defend this nation that he could be wounded or killed. We all enlisted anyway."

More than half of the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed at the time were from the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry. — *ARNEWS*

SSG Michael Rautio

White and Shinseki talk to SGT Thomas Finch, one of 17 casualties from the fighting in Afghanistan who received Purple Hearts during ceremonies at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Environmental Front

Compiled by Neal Snyder

The new foundation for Fort Carson's tank trail water-crossing consists of 44 strips of used tank track, each 20 feet wide by 100 feet long and weighing 1,600 pounds.

Tank Tracks Become Erosion Solution

FORT Carson, Colo., officials are using old, unserviceable tank tracks to control erosion on the installation.

With help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors, officials built a new tank trail water-crossing. The Corps' Construction Engineering and Research Laboratory is using the crossing as a test bed to help build stable, hardened stream crossings that can withstand traffic pressures and watershed impacts, and resist erosion, said Gwyn Howard, a research biologist at CERL.

Pipe culverts had often collapsed at the stream crossing, which serves users ranging from active-duty and Reserve units to trainers exercising police dogs, officials said.

Builders had to excavate concrete, rubble and soil to prepare the site for the crossing, Howard said. The new foundation consists of 44 strips of used tank track, each 20 feet wide by 100 feet long and weighing 1,600 pounds. Cable, also salvaged from the Defense Reutilization Management Office, holds the strips together.

Unserviceable tank tracks aren't easy to recycle, said Bruce Miller, a range conservationist at the post.

"The combination of rubber fused to iron makes it unfit for the recycling process. If we didn't use them in projects like this, they'd be a liability that would take up space in a landfill." — *Susan C. Galentine-Ketchum, Fort Carson*

Erosion Control Supports Airborne Readiness

FOR many years engineers at Fort Bragg, N.C., kept the Sicily drop zone clear by "discing" the soil, much as a farmer would turn a field for planting. But the installation didn't plant anything.

The result: "We've had massive erosion at our drop zones, and it was affecting training as well as harming the environment," said Fort Bragg soil conservationist Jennings Craig Lance.

SFC Patrick Mackery, of the 3rd Special Forces Group, said he remembers the washouts and gullies on the drop zone. "Because of those, our paratroopers suffered a lot of ankle and back injuries, and foot trauma, especially from mishaps that occurred at night."

The erosion was so bad that

Research Bolsters Chesapeake Bay's Health

ARMY research into beds of submerged aquatic vegetation at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., has directly linked the underwater meadows to the health of Chesapeake Bay.

With 19 installations in the Chesapeake watershed, the Army is dedicated to the bay's protection and restoration.

Last summer the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, on the shore of the upper Chesapeake, led a study to examine the effects of different water-quality characteristics on the growth of three native species — water stargrass, wild celery and redhead grass.

Researchers planted nearly 2,400 plants. Environmental agencies will use the findings to evaluate future preservation actions. — *USAEC*

The recent study at Aberdeen Proving Ground linked Chesapeake Bay's health directly to the presence of submerged aquatic vegetation.

Soil conservationist Jennings Craig Lance examines erosion gullies at Fort Bragg's Sicily drop zone. Terraces and quick-growing grasses ultimately solved the erosion problem.

the state cited Fort Bragg for it in 1994. Sand and clay had eroded from the drop zone and fouled nearby streams, filled adjacent wetlands and threatened the habitat of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Lance said 90 percent of the drop zone's 1,000 acres were eroded at that time.

The solution was to prevent water from running down the drop zone's hillsides. So the installation created a series of terraces and planted hardy, quick-growing grass at the site. The size of the terraces depended upon the amount of excess water that needed to be controlled in any particular area. At the same time, conservationists had to build the terraces with gentle slopes, to prevent additional hazards for the paratroopers.

"Once the vegetation flourished, the gullies disappeared," Lance said.

"Today, I know the troops are much happier with conditions at the drop zone," he said. "We hear only positive comments when we talk to the drop zone safety officers and jumpmasters," said Lance.

"High-altitude, low-opening jumps require 250 to 500 meters of clear ground," added Mackery. Sicily DZ is now perfect for conducting those jumps.
— Robert DiMichele, U.S. Army Environmental Center

Army Tackles Historic Family Housing Dilemma

ARMY Department of Engineering and Housing officials have found a way to avoid headaches over historical preservation.

Family quarters built between 1949 and 1962 are called Capehart- and Wherry-Era housing, for the two senators who sponsored legislation to solve a desperate need for military-family housing.

The Army still owns more than 19,000 of these aging buildings, and most are occupied. But within the next 10 years all Capehart-Wherry housing will fall under the protection of the National Historic Properties Act. The act requires an extensive review process before renovation, rehabilitation, privatization or demolition. This review process can be time-consuming and expensive for installations that want to improve housing conditions.

Working with state preservation officers and other groups, USAEC officials will conduct a once-for-all review of Capeheart-Wherry housing to avoid a project-by-project review at every installation.

Today, much as in the Capehart and Wherry era, the Army faces a family housing problem, this time due to aging infrastructure. The Army Family Housing Master Plan indicates 70 percent of Army family housing is inadequate, and this is having a significant effect on soldiers' quality of life.

The Capehart-Wherry "programmatic compliance approach" will eliminate delays in upgrading housing and save the Army several million dollars in installation compliance costs.
— David Guldenzopf, USAEC

Aberdeen Proving Ground is just one installation that is still home to Capehart-Wherry family housing units.

Please send contributions or questions concerning Environmental Front to Neal Snyder, U.S. Army Environmental Center, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attn: SFIM-AEC-PA, Bldg. 4460, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401, e-mail ***Environmental.Update@aec.apgea.army.mil****. Telephone: (410) 436-2556 or (DSN) 584-2556.*

Ready For RAPI REACTIO

Story by Heike Hasenauer

The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps is headquartered in Mönchengladbach, Germany, not far from Cologne.

Jason Lefevre

RECENT months of heightened world tension resulting from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have kept the 450-member Allied Command, Europe, Rapid Reaction Corps on constant high alert.

Stationed at Rheindahlen Military Complex in Mönchengladbach, Germany, the ARRC is NATO's only multinational and rapid-reaction corps. It's trained, equipped and ready to deploy to any hotspot where NATO interests are at stake; within 48 hours its lead elements can pave the way for other initial-entry forces, including the entire ARRC headquarters. It would then assume the role of corps headquarters, with up to four divisions under its control, or become a land-component command headquarters for crisis-management contingencies, said ARRC spokesman MAJ Barry Johnson.

"We do a lot of NATO contingency planning all the time," added LTC John Williams, the ARRC's main attack-helicopter operations planner.

The ARRC's 300 officers represent 17 NATO-member nations and are assigned throughout the headquarters' staff sections, said LTC Jeff Brown, deputy fire-support coordinator. About 30 U.S. officers complement the group. Ten Army enlisted soldiers perform administrative and other support functions.

MSG Jeff Vandevaarst makes maps from data collected from a variety of sources in the United States, Britain and Germany.
Heike Hasenauer

Heike Hasenauer

SGT Ken Orrock, a member of NATO's only multinational counterintelligence team, is one of several enlisted soldiers who hold critical ARRC positions.

In each individual area of expertise — air operations, fire support, security, and training and exercise, among others — ARRC teams coordinate, synchronize and integrate their nations' collective military assets to create the most appropriate force for a particular contingency, Williams said.

"There's no looming military threat to NATO in Europe, as existed during the Cold War," said counterintelligence special agent SGT Ken Orrock. Until the terrorist attack on America, the biggest threat was in Macedonia, followed by Kosovo and Bosnia.

"Today, it's the terrorist threat,' he said. "What most people haven't been aware of until recently is that there's an increase in human intelligence-gathering against the United States and NATO, much more so than during the Cold War."

The counterintelligence team, composed of American, British, Belgian and Dutch agents, counters espionage and terrorism, Orrock said.

"We monitor terrorist and organized-crime threats and subversive activities throughout Europe, from Norway to the Middle East and North Africa," Orrock said. "Once the team enters a hostile area, it works with host-nation law-enforcement personnel, security services and others to identify individuals who pose potential threats, he said.

The team was the first of its kind to go into Bosnia and, later, Kosovo, said Orrock, who joined the unit after it returned from Kosovo.

Under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, the ARRC can draw a multinational combat force from nine assigned divisions and corps, representing the most powerful armies in the world, Johnson said.

The ARRC commander has operational control of only one of the nine divisions in peacetime — a combined division composed of Belgian, German, Dutch and British troops — but he has coordinating authority with all of the divisions, including the Germany-based U.S. 1st Armored Division.

To ensure that all participants are fluent in joint doctrine, technology and equipment, the ARRC conducts some 50 exercises and classes annually. On average, each of the divisions participates in a major corps-level exercise every two years, Johnson said.

In October 2001, the ARRC began a process, under the auspices of NATO and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe, to certify the unit "as a high-readiness, land-force headquarters," Brown said.

"The first step was comparable to the 'Warfighter' exercises that test the readiness of U.S. corps," he said. The computer-assisted exercise was conducted at a British kaserne in

Under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, the ARRC can draw a multinational combat force from nine assigned divisions and corps, representing the most powerful armies in the world.

The ARRC mobilizes after the North Atlantic Council at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, directs the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, to form a combined, joint military force.

"We go in as part of the initial-entry force," Williams said. "We went into Kosovo behind American, German and British brigades."

On Dec. 20, 1995, the ARRC deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina to assume command of the multinational divisions positioned in various sectors of the country as the land-component headquarters of the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force for Operation Joint Endeavor.

The ARRC remained in Sarajevo throughout 1996, commanding a multinational, three-division force which, at its peak, consisted of 55,000 troops from 35 nations, Johnson said.

During the two years before it

Heike Hasenauer

Translated from the Latin, the words on the distinctive patch worn by members of the ARRC read "Fortune favors the bold."

Sennelager, Germany, and was an internal test of the corps' warfighting procedures. Two SHAPE-conducted garrison inspections were followed by a final evaluation, conducted during a February 2002 exercise, also at Sennelager. The final exercise focused on the corps' range of capabilities and completed the certification process.

The October exercise brought together 3,500 soldiers and various units from throughout NATO to replicate a force of more than 120,000 troops in a computer-aided combat scenario. Participating units included the 1st Armd. Div., one of the ARRC's primary assigned units, as well as units from France, Greece, Poland, Spain, Turkey and Great Britain, Johnson said.

Building an effective team from such diverse units is one of the ARRC's greatest challenges, so field exercises are essential for keeping the headquarters prepared and ready for any contingency, Johnson added. Upon completion of the February exercise, SHAPE evaluators recommended the ARRC for immediate certification to become NATO's first high-readiness force.

SSG Joe Leger updates map information during Exercise Arcade Guard 2002, while his supervisor, a British warrant officer, takes notes.

Jason Lefevre

Jason Lefevre

Soldiers from some of the 17 NATO-member nations gather for an ARRC planning meeting. The ARRC can draw military assets from a variety of sources.

deployed to Bosnia, the ARRC gathered intelligence on the country's economic, political and military infrastructures in preparation for a possible emergency deployment of troops.

Then, in 1998, the headquarters staff focused on the boiling pot that was Kosovo, planning for contingencies that ranged from a two-corps forced entry to a peacekeeping division commanded by the ARRC.

ARRC elements deployed to Macedonia in February 1999. The remainder of its personnel arrived in March, moving into Kosovo as headquarters for the initial-entry force in June, when a cease-fire agreement was signed.

In Kosovo, Williams wrote operations orders that the multinational brigades executed. "The orders were typically translated into six languages after they were sent out," he said.

"Kosovo reinforced the fact that not everyone speaks English," Williams said. "It taught me that we really need to put more thought into what we send out, eliminating often-added, but unnecessary, flowery information."

The corps operations plan that's written back at the headquarters in Rheindahlen is similar to the five-paragraph operations orders U.S. soldiers see everyday, Williams continued, "except it's much more detailed."

For the Multinational Brigade, South — the German brigade that was to establish a security sector along the Kosovo-Albanian border — "we wargamed scenarios and tweaked the ops order before sending it down," Williams said.

Soldiers assigned to ARRC enjoy the best of both country and city life; the headquarters is nestled in a quiet area of town, across the street from a park.

Other ARRC plans included one to register people who were part of the Kosovo Protection Corps and could, therefore, legally carry weapons, Williams said. The plan for the turnover of weapons required the identification of places where they could be destroyed.

Among other challenges the ARRC faced in preparing ops orders was the delayed-movement factor, Williams said. The amount of time it typically takes a unit to move from one point to another didn't apply in Kosovo.

"It always took much longer than we expected, because many bridges had been destroyed in the bombing campaign," he said.

ARRC experts must ask countless questions not only about the destination of the multinational force, what its duties will be and how those will be carried out, but about equipment interoperability.

Different countries' helicopters may have different equipment and specifications, which can mean differences in performance and capability, Williams said. For example, some Italian and Dutch helicopters carry ammunition that differs from that used by other NATO nations.

The ARRC was activated in 1992 in response to NATO's increased involvement in crisis operations that required units that could deploy more rapidly.

Given the current security situation in the world, the ARRC remains ready to fulfill its role as NATO's premier land-component headquarters, and to deploy as needed to perform a wide variety of missions, Johnson said.

Its intense training schedule allows the ARRC to focus on any number of potential missions, ranging from peace-support and humanitarian assistance, to full combat operations, he said. Its operational experience as the initial-entry force in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo makes it NATO's most diverse and capable land-component headquarters, he added. □

BE A PART OF YOUR MAGAZINE

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO SOLDIERS

Soldiers wants you, your family and friends to be part of our hottest issue of the year. We're already planning our 2003 almanac and once again need your help.

A large part of each almanac is "This Is Our Army," a photo feature that tells the Army story at the local level.

If you have candid photos of the Army family at work or play, send them in NOW. **The only restriction is that your photos should be taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002, and be sent to us by Sept. 1.**

Soldiers requires color prints or slides. We don't need fancy 8x10 prints — regular 4x6 prints will do. We can accept digital images, but they must be very high resolution (minimum is 5x7 at 300 dpi), the kind taken with a professional digital camera. If your images can fit onto a floppy disk, they are too small. Please do not send prints made from digital images. Also, please DO NOT e-mail photo submissions.

To enter, complete a copy of the form below and attach it to each photo you send. Photos without complete caption information will not be considered. Photos and accompanying information cannot be returned.

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"Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine" and the Soldiers Style Guide, are both available at www.soldiersmagazine.com.

10 TIPS FOR PHOTO SUCCESS

MORE than half the photos we receive each year never make it to the final selection process, mostly for avoidable reasons. Follow these simple tips to be sure your photos have the best chance of being selected.

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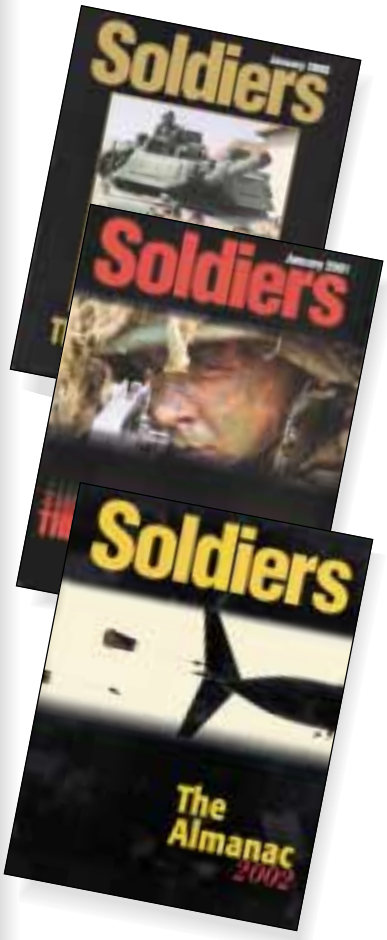

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Around the Services

Compiled by Paul Disney from service reports

Navy

THE Navy is celebrating 100 years of the destroyer, a surface vessel originally designed to destroy high-speed torpedo boats. As torpedo boats at the turn of the 20th century were capable of high-speed attack, navies of the industrialized world saw the need to counter this threat with ships that could perform the role. From the first torpedo-boat destroyer commissioned in 1902 to the newest design, the Zumwalt class, the Navy and its destroyers will continue to be an effective, deadly force into the 21st century.

Marines

MARINE Corps officials have disclosed that Marine reconnaissance teams infiltrated into Boise, Idaho, during early May, gathered intelligence on specific targets, then slipped out of the city undetected. It was part of a Corps effort to increase training realism. Each recon team was accompanied by a city police officer who ensured that residents knew that what was happening was part of an exercise.

Air Force

CHIEF Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch announced he will retire in June after 28 years of service. He said the decision was a difficult one given the state of world events. Finch began his military career in 1974 as a missile-maintenance technician, and he later taught military education courses. His became the 30th CMSAF in August 1999.

Coast Guard

THE U.S. Coast Guard and the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency have joined forces to deal with possible terrorist threats on the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes. Every ship that transits these waters passes vital facilities and large population areas.

The masters of all ships entering the St. Lawrence Seaway will have to give 96 hours' notice to U.S. and Canadian officials. USCG and CCRA personnel will initially screen the ship's information, and will submit the crew and passenger list to a centralized information center for review. If a threat is identified, Canadian officials will board the vessel to conduct a security review. The new measures reinforce old policies already in place.

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ARMY BIRTHDAY 2002 *Message*

We are honored to join you in celebrating the 227th birthday of the most powerful land force the world has ever known.

For 227 years now, Soldiers have defended freedom. And again today, Soldiers are fighting on behalf of the American people as we prosecute the war on terrorism. So as we celebrate our Army's Birthday and reflect on our great institution, a simple truth arises: there is no greater profession than the Profession of Arms, and no greater job than ours—serving on point for our Nation. Thanks to American Soldiers, freedom's light shines as a beacon throughout the world.

The Army has courageously fought our country's wars and served honorably in peace for over two and a quarter centuries. We can all be justifiably proud of The Army's achievements—a distinguished history of service to the Nation. From our victories in the American Revolution through the trial of our Civil War, from the trenches of World War I to the beaches of Normandy and the island battles in the Pacific of World War II, from the frozen mountains of Korea to the sweltering paddies of Vietnam, from Grenada and Panama to the sands of Kuwait and Iraq, and now on the plains and in the mountains of Afghanistan, Soldiers have marched at the van of democracy and the cause of liberty.

And throughout that history of service, the key to The Army's success is our flexibility and willingness to change, to meet the world as it is—without altering the core competencies that make The Army the best fighting force in the world. You *are* the best Army in the world. As we forge ahead to gain irreversible momentum in our Transformation, you will continue to be respected by allies, feared by our enemies, and honored and esteemed by the American people. Your courage, dedication to duty and selfless service to the Nation are the hallmarks of the Soldiers of the United States Army.

We will never be able to tell you enough how very proud we are of you, how everyone we meet offers their thanks for what you do and their prayers for your safety and well-being. So we are honored to join you in celebrating the birthday of the most powerful land force the world has ever known. Thank you for your service, for your sacrifices, and for your abiding devotion to something greater than self.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, God bless our magnificent Army, and God bless America.

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army

CLASS OF '81

Kim Hall

HALL was the first female player to score 1,000 points in basketball at the academy. The 4-year letter winner in basketball and softball was commissioned as an air defense artillery officer and retired in October 2001 as a lieutenant colonel. She currently works as a government contractor.

1802 WEST POINT 2002 BICENTENNIAL

West Point — 200 Years of Athletic Excellence

FLAG DAY

NATIONAL

JUNE 14

Beth Reece/Soldiers Magazine

FLAG DAY

Each year on June 14, we celebrate the birthday of the Stars and Stripes, which came into being on June 14, 1777. At that time, the Second Continental Congress authorized a new flag to symbolize the new Nation, the United States of America.

The Stars and Stripes first flew in a Flag Day celebration in Hartford, Connecticut in 1861, during the first summer of the Civil War. The first national observance of Flag Day occurred June 14, 1877, the centennial of the original flag resolution.

By the mid 1890's the observance of Flag Day on June 14 was a popular event. Mayors and governors began to issue proclamations in their jurisdictions to celebrate this event.

In the years to follow, public sentiment for a national Flag Day observance greatly intensified. Numerous patriotic societies and veterans groups became identified with the Flag Day movement. Since one of their main objectives was to stimulate patriotism among the young, schools were among the first to become involved in flag activities.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14. It was not until 1949 that Congress made this day a permanent observance by resolving "That the 14th day of June of each year is hereby designated as Flag Day . The measure was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

Although Flag Day is not celebrated as a Federal holiday, Americans everywhere continue to honor the history and heritage it represents.

FOLDING THE FLAG

1. Two persons, facing each other, hold the flag waist high and horizontally between them.
2. The lower striped section is folded, lengthwise, over the blue field. Hold bottom to top and edges together securely.
3. Fold the flag again, lengthwise, folded edge to open edge.
4. A triangular fold is started along the length of the flag, from the end to the heading by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open edge.
5. The outer point is turned inward parallel with the open edge, forming a second triangle.
6. Repeat the triangular folding until the entire length of the flag is folded.
7. When the flag is completely folded, only the triangular blue field should be visible.

CARE OF YOUR FLAG

The life of your flag depends on your care. Dirt can cut fabrics, dull colors and cause wear. Most outdoor flags can be washed in mild detergent and thoroughly rinsed. Indoor and parade flags should be dry-cleaned. Many dry cleaners offer free cleaning of U.S. flags during the months of June and July. Damaged flags can be repaired and utilized as long as the overall dimensions are not noticeably altered. American Legion posts and local governments often have facilities to dispose of unserviceable flags. Store your flags in a well-ventilated area away from any harsh chemicals or cleaning compounds. If your flag gets wet, never store it until it is completely dry. Wet folds cause permanent creases. Dampness ruins fabric and causes mildew. Pole care is also related to flag care. Rust and scale cause permanent stains, and some metallic oxides actually eat holes in fabric.

SIZES OF FLAGS

The size of the flag is determined by the exposed height of the flagpole from which it is flying. The only consideration is for the flag to be in proper proportion to its pole. Flags that fly from angled poles on homes and those that are displayed on standing poles in offices and other indoor displays are usually either 3' x 5' or 4' x 6'. Color guards usually carry flags measuring 4' x 6'. Other recommended sizes are shown in the following table:

Flagpole Height (ft.)	Flag Size (ft.)
20	4 x 6
25	5 x 8
40	6 x 10
50	8 x 12
60	10 x 15
70	12 x 18
90	15 x 25
125	20 x 30
200	30 x 40
250	40 x 50

HOW TO OBTAIN A FLAG FLOWN OVER THE CAPITOL

Constituents may arrange to purchase flags that have been flown over the Capitol by contacting their Senators or Representative. A certificate signed by the Architect of the Capitol accompanies each flag. Flags are available for purchase in sizes of 3' x 5' or 5' x 8' in fabrics of cotton and nylon.

HOW TO OBTAIN A BURIAL FLAG FOR A VETERAN

Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to a burial flag. The funeral director, as part of the services, will make the necessary arrangements for the family on behalf of the veteran. The flag may be used to cover the casket, and it is presented to the family as a keepsake. The local office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs can also provide information on the procedure for obtaining a flag for a deceased veteran.

SCHOOL PROJECTS

The study of the history and symbolism of flags is known as VEXILLOLOGY, from the Latin word, VEXILLUM, which means "a square flag or banner."

Numerous books have been written about the flag. Local and school libraries should have a catalog reference for these books. Also, military and veterans organizations, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Legion, provide useful information on the flag and flag code.

You also can find the complete flag code, including laws and proclamations, in the depository library in your Congressional district. Your local librarian can assist you in obtaining information from your nearest depository library.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

The Pledge of Allegiance received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved on June 22, 1942. However, the pledge was first published in 1892 in the Youth's Companion magazine in Boston, Massachusetts, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, and was first used in public schools to celebrate Columbus Day on October 12, 1892. In its original version, the pledge read "my flag" instead of "the flag of the United States." the change in the wording was adopted by the National Flag Conference in 1923. The rationale for the change was that it prevented ambiguity among foreign-born children and adults who might have the flag of their native land in mind when reciting the pledge.

The phrase "under God" was added to the pledge by a Congressional act approved on June 14, 1954. At that time, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said:

"in this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

Policies concerning military courtesy are found in Army Regulation 600-25, "Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy." Proper methods for rendering the military salute are found in Field Manual 22-5, "Drill and Ceremonies." For more information on flag etiquette, visit the Independence Hall Association's Web page, http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html. You may also check with your installation officials for the local courtesies honoring our flag observed at your post's morning "Reveille" and evening "Retreat" ceremonies.